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THE funeral of Jill Phipps, the veal flights protester who died last week, is to take place at Coventry cathedral. It was scheduled last night. The decision has aroused fears that the service will elevate Miss Phipps to the status of animal welfare martyr.

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20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,185 WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8 1995

Warning to 'boot boys in balaclavas' Farmers fight back against veal blockade

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND FRANCES GIBB

FARMERS gave notice yesterday that they were determined to continue exporting livestock to the Continent and would not be deterred by the possibility of violence from animal rights extremists.

As the courts paved the way for legal actions and potentially large damages claims against ports and airports, farmers' leaders said they would not allow "a tiny minority of boot boys in balaclavas" to stand in their way.

In a rare outburst of anger, Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, told cheering delegates at the NFU's two-day annual conference in London: "I am determined that we should be able to continue our lawful trade, and that means live exports."

"Farmers care about welfare. They care night and day and have been doing so for generations after generations. Animal welfare is not a fad or media trend. It is a 365-days-a-year labour. Caring for animals is a way of life. Let the militants who set out to hijack a genuine concern — a tiny but

Cathedral funeral for veal protest woman

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE funeral of Jill Phipps, the veal flights protester who died last week, is to take place at Coventry cathedral. It was scheduled last night. The decision has aroused fears that the service will elevate Miss Phipps to the status of animal welfare martyr.



Jill Phipps: died under the wheels of a lorry

The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, of the Coventry diocese, said the family was offered the cathedral because St Peter's was too small. About 14 funerals are held at the cathedral each year.

The offer did not indicate support for the protesters, Mr Mortimer said. Details of the service had not yet been agreed with the family.

On Sunday the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, visited the protesters at Coventry airport, where Miss Phipps died under a lorry last Wednesday.

He urged them not to use violence. Animal rights campaigners clearly hope Miss Phipps' death, at the age of 31, will highlight their cause as much as suffragettes promoted women's rights.

Brigitte Bardot, who runs her own French animal rights group, praised Ms Phipps in an open letter to the *Journal du Dimanche*. She said: "Jill will go down in history as the Joan of Arc of veal."

John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry South-East, said yesterday that he hoped the funeral would not become an "animal rights showcase."

sinister minority of boot boys in balaclavas who believe they can help animals by terrorising them — let them just take note: the British people love animals, but they cannot abide extremism or political thuggery, whatever cause it claims to support."

In a letter to the Home Secretary, Sir David called for "an absolute assurance that the Criminal Justice Act and other relevant legislation would be used in the fullest way to protect farmers in their homes and in their work."

Sir David's anger was triggered by a suggestion last week by Compassion in World Farming that its members might picket farms.

As the farmers' stance hardened, a High Court judge said that port authorities at Shoreham, in West Sussex, could face damages claims from a ferry owner over their block on livestock shipments through the port. The trade was stopped on Sunday after Adur District Council said that Shoreham did not have the correct planning permission to accept livestock at the berth used by International Ferry Traders.

Mr Justice Smedley refused to lift the ban, but added that it amounted to a breach of contract that could lead to a claim for damages by International Ferry Traders. Port officials are considering whether to lift their ban.

In a separate legal action, a leading veal calf exporter won permission to bring a High Court challenge against a ban on flights of live animals from Humberside Airport. Yorkshire-based Albert Hall Farms was given leave to seek a judicial review after a judge ruled that the company had an "arguable case" that the block was in breach of European Union free trade rules.

Mr Justice Smedley refused to lift the ban, but added that it amounted to a breach of contract that could lead to a claim for damages by International Ferry Traders. Port officials are considering whether to lift their ban.

In a separate legal action, a leading veal calf exporter won permission to bring a High Court challenge against a ban on flights of live animals from Humberside Airport. Yorkshire-based Albert Hall Farms was given leave to seek a judicial review after a judge ruled that the company had an "arguable case" that the block was in breach of European Union free trade rules.

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Allan Stewart in London after his resignation yesterday. He is the fifth minister to resign in 13 months.

Minister quits in pickaxe dispute

By JILL SHERMAN AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Government was embarrassed again yesterday when Allan Stewart resigned as Scottish Office minister in one of the more bizarre departures of this Parliament.

Mr Stewart decided to quit after allegedly brandishing a pickaxe in a confrontation with anti-motorway campaigners in Glasgow on Sunday. He was interviewed by the police after the incident. He said he raised the pickaxe for his own safety.

After seeing Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, yesterday he handed in his resignation to the Prime Minister.

Mr Stewart, 52, MP for

Eastwood, insisted that he was going voluntarily, and said that as a backbencher he would fight the "wild and inaccurate allegations" made by the demonstrators.

Although many MPs thought he had little choice, the speed of the decision, and the quick appointment of George Yinoch, MP for Kindersale and Desdale, as his successor, helped to contain the damage. This was the fifth resignation of a minister in 13 months. The loss of a Scottish minister is particularly damaging, given the Tories' low standing in Scotland where they have only 11 MPs.

In his letter Mr Stewart, under-secretary of state for Scotland since 1992, said he

did not wish to be an embarrassment to the Government.

"Having discussed the matter with my family I believe it only right that I resign and now wish to do so." It is understood that Mr Stewart made little attempt to dissuade him.

George Gallie, Tory MP for Ayr, said: "Once again, we have had trial by the media."

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats said: "History records many cases of ministers who have fallen on their swords, but this must be the first one to fall on his pickaxe."

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, said: "It is also a serious blow for an already deeply troubled Scottish Tory party. With the

Tories commanding only 12 per cent of Scottish opinion it does not really matter who the faces at the Scottish Office are."

After the incident police questioned Mr Stewart's son Gareth, 16, about an alleged breach of the Firearms Act. He is alleged to have had an air pistol in the car and is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Tory HQ workers warned of job losses

By ANDREW PURCE

UP TO a quarter of the staff at Conservative Central Office were told yesterday that they face redundancy because of the slump in financial support for the Tories.

Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, spent out the details of the financial crisis at an emergency meeting at Smith Square with all 160 party workers. Mr Hanley, who has seen a further dramatic deterioration in corporate and local party donations since he took over last summer, promised a 30-day consultation period. He said that he could not guarantee that there would be no compulsory sackings.

Sections of the party headquarters at Smith Square which are thought not to be essential to the general election campaign will be shut down. Volunteers will be asked to take over the women's, ethnic minority and trade union sections.

The party's overdraft is about to go above £16.5 million again. The limited success Sir Norman Fowler, the last party chairman, achieved in turning the annual operating loss into a £21 million surplus is also over. The party is about to go into the red on the annual balance sheet.

One senior Central Office official said last night: "We are pared back to the bone. If there was a general election this year we would be in dire straits. Some of the brightest staff have already gone. Support is drying up. The atmosphere here is rock bottom."

There had been predictions that Central Office was preparing for its second wave of redundancies since shortly after the 1992 general election when more than 60 staff left.

Mr Hanley began his speech by saying that these reports were "wide of the mark." He then confounded us by getting up and virtually confirming everything we had read. It was a bizarre performance," said one member of the audience.

Rumbelows stores to close

Rumbelows, the electrical goods chain, is to close with the loss of nearly 3,000 jobs. News of the closure of 285 Rumbelows stores, and 36 FONA outlets, a TV and hi-fi rental business, came as Thomas EMI, the parent, announced a 40-per-cent rise in profits.

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Japan ¥ 2,500	Netherlands f 4.50
Spain Ptas 2,500	Sweden Skr 18.00
Switzerland Sfr 18.00	USA \$14.00
Tunisia Din 2,000	USA \$14.00

Chechens give up battle for Grozny

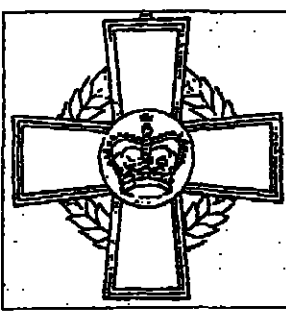
FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday claimed that it had finally overwhelmed the last remaining Chechen defenders of Grozny, and predicted that the bulk of the army would soon be withdrawn from Chechnya to make way for Interior Ministry troops.

"The army has routed the main armed bandit formations, destroyed a large number of heavy artillery guns and other hardware, encircled Grozny and seized strategic objects in the Chechen capital," a military spokesman was quoted as saying yesterday.

But General Aslan Maskhadov, commander of the Chechen forces, said at his bunker headquarters near the southern front: "It is not a retreat — it's a planned withdrawal. All we can do is fight on, to show not only that we want our independence, but that we are willing to die for it."

An estimated 5,000 Chechen irregulars have reportedly regrouped in the town of Gudermes, 25 miles east of Grozny, and others have taken up defensive positions to the south of the city. Although sporadic fighting continued in the Chechen capital through the day, it did seem clear that the Russians were pressing home their victory on Monday in street battles south of the city and that the Chechens



A bravery medal for all ranks

By MICHAEL EVANS

A NEW military medal open to all ranks in the three armed services "for conspicuous gallantry and great heroism" was announced yesterday. The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (above) will replace three existing medals and has been designed as part of John Major's attempt to eliminate a two-level honours system. It was approved by the Queen in December.

The medal will become the second most senior decoration for gallantry, next to the Victoria Cross. The Military Cross is third.

The CGC which can also be awarded to members of foreign and Commonwealth armed forces, will replace the Distinguished Service Order, when awarded to officers for specific acts of gallantry, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Shephard rejects school cash pleas

By NICHOLAS WOOD, JOHN O'LEARY AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Education Secretary yesterday brushed aside demands for more money to fund the teachers' pay award, and suggested that schools and local authorities could find up to £1.5 billion to meet their bills this year.

Teachers' unions hit back, raising the threat of classroom disruption if employers sack teachers and expand class sizes to balance their books.

Gillian Shephard said councils could save up to £250 million by eliminating surplus school places and £500 million by cutting head office staff. In addition, she said, the 23,000 schools in England had about £700 million left over at the end of the last financial year.

Her department gave a detailed breakdown of the £700 million, showing, for example, that Hampshire had £26 million unspent from previous years and Essex had £24 million.

Her overall figure, disputed by Labour, was far in excess of the £160 million it would cost the Treasury to bridge the gap between the 2.7 per cent pay award expected to be announced tomorrow and the town hall funding increase of 1.1 per cent.

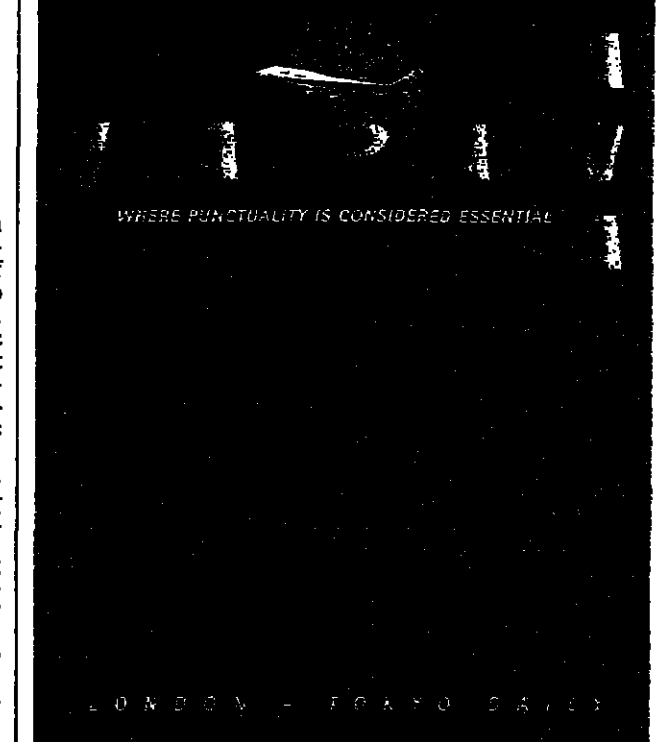
"If local authorities exploit these opportunities, they will have more to spend on teachers in the classrooms," Mrs Shephard said in a heated Commons debate. David

Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said she had become an "unwilling pawn" of the Treasury. "This is a cut too far," he declared. "How can the nation face the economic and social challenge of the 21st century with a penny-pinching, underfunding, sanctimonious bunch of nether-do-wells running this country?"

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, wrote to Mrs Shephard saying that his members were already pressing for action over job losses and class sizes. With heads and governors, he made an eleventh-hour appeal to ministers to relax their controls on council spending.

But John Major and Kenneth Clarke joined the Education Secretary in dashing hopes of a last minute U-turn. Also, Whitehall sources confirmed the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that ministers had rejected the option of phasing in the classroom pay award to ease pressure on councils and governors.

The Prime Minister insisted that the Government was delivering higher spending on teachers, support staff and books and equipment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was equally unbending, saying that if county councils managed their affairs sensibly



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ANALINE

Antonio and Giovanni hit a low note



Sutherland: appeared stunned by spectacle

IT IS unusual to see Norma Sutherland, let alone Joan Sutherland, at the Special Gallery as Norma's husband slugged it out on the floor of the House with Tony Blair.

Shrieks of "dimwit" from Major, and "disabled" from Blair filled the air, while backbenchers roared. Might Betty raise her baton and Dame Joan lead Norma and friends in Verdi's *Avvil Chorus*? It only needed an anvil and Allan Stewart's pick. Both women looked stunned.

As opera, however, the first problem Sutherland will have diagnosed in PM's Questions was that yesterday's soprano (the SNP's Margaret Ewing) was scratchy and shrill. Her unstructured aria about the



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

rape of industry lacked generosity. Her gestures were wooden, and her voice cracked on "manufacturing base".

Then came Giovanni Maggior, playing "Prime Minister". Dame Joan will immediately have spotted a difficulty this actor is having with the part. Maggior is a soft baritone of limited vocal range, attempting what is essentially a tenor role in the heroic mould. Thus, in his quieter and more thoughtful passages he sings pleasingly, but where pitch and volume need to be raised Maggior suffers a painful constricting of the throat which produces a sound not unlike that of a

chainsaw in a distant forest. Yesterday was a case in point. The libretto of this scene, after Antonio Blair challenges Maggior to say where he stands on a single currency (in the celebrated passage: "Dammi una risposta: si o no?"), calls for a thundering denunciation of Labour's

Leader, but as Maggior's recitative listing dates, criteria and agenda for the IGC Conference in 1996 swelled to its climax (with growing background *continuo* from the Tory chorus) there was a knotting of the vocal cords. The climax itself — Maggior's famous shout of "oreno!" (subtitled "dimwit" at the Commons yesterday) —

emerged more a strangled yelp than the full-throated denunciation for which the script calls. Shouts of Bravo from elements in the audience owed more to sympathy than admiration. Upstairs in the Gods a hissed chant of "Giovanni was my toyboy" from the tabloid scribblers was suppressed by the ushers.

Then came the second leading man, Antonio Blair, current heartthrob in Covent Garden and La Scala. Joan Sutherland may have sensed that for all his boyish good looks, this light and engaging tenor displays serious limitations in a leading role.

A deeper, richer timbre is called for: Blair has no reach into the bass register at all. Wherever an *appassionato* passage is reached young Antonio flips up an octave, his eyes rolling and his voice taking on an unpleasant me-

talic edge. The suspicion grows that we are listening not so much to an historic declaration as an irate telephone call. The "Si o no?" aria should have been majestic. The role calls for stature. Antonio Blair had none.

Observing Antonio's recent performances, an impression has grown in your critic's mind which may have struck Dame Joan, too. This tenor is not born to be an operatic hero: he is a natural stage villain. No Otello, Blair is an ideal Iago, Scarpa or dwarf Alberich. He could play the poisoner in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Listening to Mr Blair on *Today*, I sense that his is a voice (like Clive Jenkins in the 70s) which the nation could come to detest.

The third miscast tenor to sing yesterday was Petruccio Ashdown. For him, surely, Puccini created *La Pinkerton*?

Angry Major brands Blair a dimwit in currency row

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR branded Tony Blair "a dimwit" yesterday after the Labour leader pressed the Prime Minister to say whether he would join a European single currency if all the conditions set by the Maastricht treaty were met.

In a stormy Commons confrontation he was accused by Tony Blair of weak leadership for failing to declare where he stood. But the Prime Minister said he would make no decision until he saw the economic conditions of the day.

With both sides of the House baying noisily, Mr Blair rose four times to question the Prime Minister as he sought to exploit renewed Conservative tensions over Europe. The Prime Minister confirmed, however, that the Government would be requiring new criteria, in addition to those specified in Maastricht, to be met before ministers even considered it appropriate to join a single currency.

He added that some years in advance of those being met it would be "unwise either to say yes we will proceed, or no we will never proceed". It was his formula, agreed with Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke, that carefully leaves open the prospect of joining a single currency, possibly in 1999. He said that when the other matters had been set out "we will then consider whether it would be

appropriate economically or constitutionally to proceed".

When Mr Blair persisted by asking whether Mr Major would join if the conditions were met, Mr Major replied: "When and if these circumstances are met we will look and see whether it is appropriate and in the British interest to join."

After Mr Blair was given permission by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, to make his fourth and final intervention, he told Mr Major that until he decided where he stood on the issue his "leadership will remain weak. Cabinet divided and Britain effectively disabled in Europe".

But an irritated Mr Major said that he would not take a judgment that was crucial to the constitutional future of the country until he saw the economic circumstances. "Frankly, only a dimwit would ask me to," he said.

Mr Clarke will use a speech tomorrow to set out the new factors that Britain would want to consider before deciding whether it was appropriate to go in. He is the Cabinet's keenest supporter of a single currency.

Mr Blair favours a single currency. His line, set out in Brussels last month is that if the conditions are met Labour must persuade Britain "that it is a step that is sensible and right to take".



Sheila Halsall, the chairman of governors who fears her school must dismiss three teachers to stay within its budget, meets Dave Lovatt, the headmaster

Governors ready to resign over school budget squeeze

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

GOVERNORS at Market Drayton Junior School have threatened to resign unless their budget for next year is increased. They estimate that the 460-pupil school must find savings of £63,610 after being allotted £459,390 by Shropshire County Council.

The governors, who say they need £523,000 just to maintain present spending, are frustrated by lack of budgetary room for manoeuvre. Some 87 per cent of the school's budget next year will be needed to pay its teachers. There is little fat to cut from the remainder after previous economies. Only £11,000 will be spent on books and equipment — less than £24 per

pupil. Sheila Halsall, 49, the chairman of governors, said: "We will have to lose three or three-and-a-half teachers out of 17. My son would go from a class of 28 to one of 37. It would be the same for three quarters of children."

Ms Halsall and her 15 fellow governors met in emergency session last week and voted unanimously to resign unless the Government and Shropshire County Council found more money. Governors at a further 25 Shropshire schools have taken similar action in protest at an estimated £7 million education spending shortfall. One governing body has already quit. This year Market Dray-

ton has had to use £21,000 from reserves earmarked for a building project to limit the impact of a 2 per cent cut. Even so, one part-time teacher was made redundant. Another teacher was not replaced and her pupils were added to other classes.

A package has been drawn up to save £6,000 next year by reducing lunchtime supervision, cleaning and secretarial and classroom support. The school aims to reduce energy consumption by 8 per cent.

But the only way of making the substantial savings required is by backing at the wage bill. Governors argue that there is little scope for reducing the cost of contract cleaning (£10,700), insurance for supply cover for sick teachers (£10,700), school secretary (£9,000), classroom auxiliaries to help children with special needs (£9,000), caretaker (£9,500), repair and maintenance (£6,000), gas and electricity (£10,500), rates (£12,500), telephones and post (£1,500) and insurance against theft and vandalism (£1,500).

Ms Halsall acknowledges that forcing the council to take over the school would achieve little. But she maintains that threatening to resign is the only way to convey anger at the third successive and most severe year of cuts. "Governors identify with their own school and we are not here to set in motion redundancy procedures for teachers. We are not going to do the Government's dirty washing. We do not want to have to look at people we see so often and decide who should be sacked."

Ms Halsall became a parent governor in 1989 after someone persuaded her to stand after she asked a few awkward questions to do with budgets. "I wanted to make a contribution and do the very best for local children."

TEACHERS' PAY

Q. Why has teachers' pay become so contentious?

A. Government funding will increase by 1.1 per cent this year but there will be 1.5 per cent more pupils. Few authorities will have allowed for more than a token pay rise, and governors may have to shed staff to balance the books.

Q. How much are teachers paid?

A. The expected 2.7 per cent increase would produce a minimum salary of £11,900 for qualified teachers, rising to a maximum of £32,200. The range for head teachers and deputies would run from £23,700 to £53,500.

Q. Could local authorities bail schools out?

A. Only by raiding other services, as Birmingham intends to do. Most councils are restricted to an increase in spending of between 0.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent, but they are free to allocate grant as they wish.

Q. What will be the effect on class sizes?

A. Another 5,000 teachers will be needed to keep classes at their present size. Governing bodies without large reserves may have no option but to plan a further increase in class sizes.

Q. What happens if governors refuse to implement cuts?

A. Governors are legally bound to produce a balanced budget. If they refuse, the local authority or funding agency will assume financial control.

Q. What are the options for the Government?

A. The Treasury could make more money available to fund the award; pay could be raised in stages; capping levels could be eased; or ministers could place the onus on authorities and schools to manage their budgets. With ministers determined to keep the lid on public spending, the last course is the most likely.

Ministers reject cash pleas

Continued from page 1

ably, they would have the resources to make "proper provision" for classroom budgets.

Egged on by Tory MPs who criticised the alleged waste and inefficiency of the many town and county halls now in Labour and Liberal Democrat hands, Mrs Shephard said there was enough fat in the system to accommodate the review body award without damaging education.

She conceded that councils faced a "tough settlement" this year. But said: "Local educa-

tion authorities still spend millions on running their central bureaucracies and on maintaining surplus places in schools. Our latest estimate is that nationally schools held about £700 million in balances at the end of 1993-94. There is a very clear message to take from this: there is scope for very substantial efficiencies."

Mrs Shephard's tough stance won backing from Tory MPs who foresee a bigger political dividend in pre-election tax cuts than in higher classroom spending. However, James Pawsey, chairman

of the backbench Tory education committee, urged an end to capping of council budgets and other Conservatives appealed for a more generous settlement next year.

Mr Blunkett argued later that many of Mrs Shephard's suggested savings were impractical and went against the Government's policies. "She must explain how this can be done in the context of local financial management of schools and grant-maintained schools without threatening the independence of schools and parental choice," he said.

Paisley seeks alliance against document

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

IAN PAISLEY said yesterday that he wanted to join forces with the Ulster Unionists to oppose the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document. He spoke as Dublin stepped up pressure for it to be published this month.

The leader of the Democratic Unionists issued a warning that Northern Ireland faced a crisis and said that he hoped to establish a Unionist forum to oppose the "enemies of the Province". John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said he hoped to publish the framework soon because officials had almost completed it.

Irish officials are hoping that negotiations on the document will be completed next Tuesday, when Sir Patrick Mayhew and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, meet in Belfast. That would then pave the way for John Major and Mr Bruton to launch the document at a summit meeting after their respective Cabinets have approved the proposals.

Britain is also anxious to publish the document soon to allay Unionist fears that the initiative will threaten Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom. It is now understood that the document will not outline in great detail the changes to article 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland, or Britain's Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which partitioned Ireland.

Instead the document will outline the principles that form the basis for the change, recognising that any change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland can come about only with the consent of a majority in the Province.

A political source in Dublin said: "The aim is to take out the claws of territorialism — the idea that land gives rights. That is irrelevant. But equally we do not want to disown Irish people in the North."

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the Tory Northern Ireland backbench committee, said that Unionist fears about cross-border bodies would prove unwarranted. "I believe the document will show that the cross-border bodies can do nothing without the approval of the new Northern Ireland assembly," he said.

Mr Paisley underlined Unionist determination to reject the document when he said that he had held a rare meeting with James Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist leader.

A joint operation by the Irish police and army yesterday uncovered 12,000 rounds of IRA ammunition, stored in sealed barrels, in counties Meath and Westmeath.

CORRECTIONS

Zetters Pools have asked us to make clear that, contrary to a report (January 25), they have not "frozen" their financial contribution to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. In fact, they will, for the whole of 1995, maintain their contribution of 7.5p for every 100p they take in stakes, provided that the turnover of their pools business does not fall by more than 15 per cent, compared with the same period of 1994.

Sir Robin Day has never had a heart attack as stated in an article (February 7). He had a heart bypass operation as a precautionary measure in 1985. We apologise for the error.

Schoolboy drowned in swimming lesson

A public schoolboy drowned in the school pool without anyone noticing his plight, an inquest was told. Ian Lo, 14, a boarder at the £8,000-a-year Bedford Modern School, jumped in the deep end during an 80-minute lesson in which he was racing against another pupil.

The jury at Bedford heard how Ian, from Hong Kong, had started at the school 11 days earlier. When the last boys left the changing rooms after the lesson, Ian's uniform was still hanging on the peg. His body was found floating in 2.2 metres of water 45 minutes later by two older boys. The inquest was adjourned until today.

British beef boycotted

Meat processors and distributors in two German states are to boycott British beef because they fear it could be contaminated with "mad cow disease". Ministers in Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia said that farmers, restaurant owners and retail chains also backed the voluntary ban. The federal Government is allowing a resumption of British beef imports.

Tory official arrested

The treasurer of the Penrith and Border constituency association of David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, has been arrested on suspicion of blackmail. Police are investigating allegations that David Hymers, 46, of Alston, Cumbria, tried to extort £10,000 from Royal Insurance Property Services after buying a computer at auction that had belonged to the company. Mr Hymers is on police bail.

Police warn West press

Photographers and cameramen covering the Rosemary West criminal hearing at Dursley have been warned by Gloucestershire Police against orchestrating demonstrations outside the court. Eggs were hurled at the van carrying Mrs West from court on Monday and there were reports that they had been bought for demonstrators by the foreign press. Mrs West faces ten charges of murder.

High-tech help at hand

Residents in Newham, east London, will be able to use a new scheme to contact council staff, query welfare payments and report crimes to the police over live video links if an EU grant of £2 million is secured. The project, developed by the Metropolitan Police and Newham Council, involves installing touch-sensitive screens and computer terminals in homes and public places.

M11 £20m over budget

Protesters against the extension of the M11 in northeast London helped to push the cost of the link road more than £20 million over budget. The Highways Agency said yesterday that the additional security needed to protect construction workers and clear demonstrators accounted for most of the extra cost, equivalent to £6 million for each of the road's 3½ miles.

New editor at Observer

Andrew Jaspas, editor of *The Scotsman*, has been appointed editor of *The Observer*, Britain's oldest national Sunday title. Mr Jaspas, 42, has worked for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and is known as an aggressive cost-cutter with a liberal conscience. He is widely credited with reviving the fortunes of *Scotland on Sunday*, which he edited between 1989 and 1994.

Princess in demand



A record number of 75 press seats has been allocated for the High Court appearance next week of the Princess of Wales, left, in her action against Mirror Group Newspapers for publishing photographs of her exercising in a private gym. The hearing will mark the first time for more than 100 years that a member of the Royal Family has entered a witness box. Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, gave evidence in a slander action arising out of a card game in 1891.

Coroner warns C4 show

A Channel Four documentary series, *Dispatches*, has postponed a programme due to be screened tonight about the deaths of British soldiers during training after a coroner said it would be in contempt of court. Nigel Neville-Jones, the Poole coroner, warned against material that could influence the inquest into the death of Sgt Mark Powell, who died from gunshot wounds in Canada last year.

Cottage 'bomb' site

Bomb disposal experts have spent a week in a fruitless search for a Second World War bomb allegedly buried under a cottage in Louth, Lincolnshire, after a neighbour said he heard a bomb fall when he was a boy. The search was called because the executors could not sell the house with the possibility of an unexploded bomb. The estate agent said: "The place looks like a bomb's hit it."

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LONDON TO THE CENTRE OF PARIS AND BRUSSELS. DIRECT.

JP 12/1/95

Ring uncovered on Thames foreshore

Treasure seeker finds diamonds, gold and regal link

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A METAL-DETECTING enthusiast who has long scoured the banks of the Thames has at last struck lucky. He has discovered an early 17th-century gold ring with a unique diamond-encrusted design and fine workmanship that suggest a royal provenance.

He unearthed it somewhere near Cannon Street station. The man, who wants to remain anonymous, stands to gain about £20,000 when it is sold. Rosemary Weinstein, curator of 16th and 17th-century collections at the Museum of London, which wants to acquire the jewel, said: "We have never seen anything like it. Its quality is so outstanding and unusual. There are diamonds all the way round the back of the hoop, on the underside of the finger."

The enamel on the inside, in a translucent green and mauve-blue is characteristic of the early 17th century, but the shade of mauve-blue is unusual in English jewellery, paralleled only in the 1610 Lyte Jewel, a pendant gift from James I, which is today in the British Museum. The workmanship of this item also suggests a royal link.

Mrs Weinstein added: "Because of its great quality and unusual character, it is important for museums, and our knowledge of the period. We have seen so little of what actually survived from that time. If this went to auction, and disappeared into a private collection, it would be a major loss. The public would be looking at something of this quality."

There are two theories for how it ended up in the Thames. In the 1600s, passengers travelling up and down the river would disembark below London Bridge. At low tide, there was such a rush of water through the piers under the bridge that it was too dangerous to remain aboard. There are many contemporary reports and pictures of overturned boats and people

drowning. Travellers would walk along the bank, and around the bridge (it took about ten minutes) and board the boat on the other side, at Dowgate. It could have been mislaid on that walk.

Alternatively, Mrs Weinstein suggested, the ring may be a token of a broken heart: until the last century, it was customary for people whose engagement had been broken off to toss their ring into the river. "It is impossible to tell whether this was a deliberate

London. Their activities are strictly controlled by the Port of London: only society members are given a permit allowing them to dig. Even then, they can go no further than a metre down. Anything recovered must be shown to the Museum of London before being offered elsewhere.

Britain is being stripped of its archaeological heritage as treasure seekers using metal detectors retrieve coins and precious objects, it was claimed today (John Young writes).

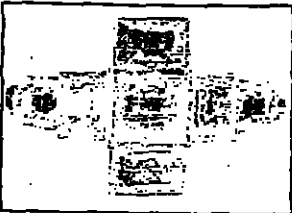
A study by the Council for British Archaeology calls for stronger measures to prevent illicit detecting and for improved relations between archaeologists and an estimated 30,000 amateur "detectorists".

The report, funded by English Heritage, states that illicit metal detecting on ancient monuments protected by law, and on working excavations, is "unacceptably high". Well-publicised finds, such as the Home Treasure in Suffolk, are only a fraction of the total, most of which are never declared and disappear into private collections.

Under the law, hoards which consist primarily of gold and silver coins must be declared for a decision on whether they constitute treasure trove. It is also an offence to remove finds from a protected archaeological site. But Mike Heyworth, the council's deputy director, said yesterday that in his view all archaeological finds morally belonged to the nation and should be offered to museums where they could be seen by the public.

The council wrote to several hundred metal-detecting clubs and societies, asking them to canvass their members, but received only 69 replies. They alone reported 3,556 finds during the previous year.

The study says detecting clubs have probably found nearly ten times as many Roman brooches since 1988 as have archaeologists.



The ring seen from above and below

act or an accident," Mrs Weinstein said, "but it's quite a ring to throw away."

The National Art Collections Fund, the leading art charity, has pledged £10,000, believed to be half of what the Museum of London will need to purchase the ring. David Barrie, the fund director, described it as a "wonderful discovery". The Museum of London is trying to raise the rest of money through various public trusts.

The metal-detecting enthusiast is among 70 members of the Society of Mudlarks and Antiquarians who can be spotted with Wellington boots and spades exploring the muddy foreshore between Tower Pier and the Houses of Parliament, within the old walls of



Julie Christie on her farm in Montgomery, Powys, where she has devoted herself to nuclear issues, human rights and animal welfare

Christie defies nerves to stage comeback

By DALYA ALBERGE

THE reclusive actress Julie Christie, who became a darling of the cinema after films such as *Dr Zhivago* and *Far from the Madding Crowd* in the 1960s, is staging a comeback in the theatre.

The news comes two years after the Oscar-winning actress disclosed that she suffered from stage fright and said she would never act on stage again. But Christie, 54, has been coaxed out of semi-retirement by Theatre Cymru's production of Harold Pinter's *Old Times*.

She said: "I don't know if I am looking forward to the part because theatre is such an unknown territory to me." She said she was unsure whether the role would lead to any kind of acting comeback. Christie, who has retreated to a remote Welsh

farmhouse in Montgomery, Powys, impressed audiences with her beauty and her sensitive performances but was often beset with nerves. She said a first day's filming was like going on stage for the first time — a "terrifying" experience.

She said she had stopped going to parties because the prospect was so frightening and revealed how a strict upbringing by nuns and nannies made her fear hearing her name called out in public. "When I collected my Oscar for *Darling*, I burst into tears because it reminded me of being called out in front of school assembly."

She also won the New York Film Critics Award for *Darling* in 1964. The acting triumphs continued throughout the 1960s with the Donatello

The Sixties was a triumphant decade with *Far from the Madding Crowd*, left, and *Dr Zhivago*

Award for *Dr Zhivago* in 1965 and the Motion Picture Laurel Award for best dramatic actress in 1967. But in spite of a successful decade when she was described as

the "most beautiful and certainly the sexiest" film star in Britain, she talked of hating the sight of herself in the mirror and on screen. Although Christie made a num-

ber of films in the 1980s, she has primarily devoted herself to campaigning on issues such as nuclear waste, human rights and cruelty to animals. Yet, at the height of her success, she was the fantasy of every young man, including Warren Beatty, her most famous lover — with whom she starred in *Shampoo* in 1974 — and Cary Grant, who pursued her for a film he was casting after seeing her photograph.

Her most recent films include *The Railway Station Man* (1991), in which she starred with Donald Sutherland, opposite whom she played in *Don't Look Now* in the 1960s. For the past six years she has been the patron of the Aberystwyth Film Festival.

The Theatre Cymru production will run from May 13 to June 10.

Judge frees soldiers who broke man's bones in 'ferocious' attack

By ANDREW PIERCE

FOUR paratroopers who launched an unprovoked attack on a father of two escaped a prison sentence yesterday because a judge did not want to ruin their careers.

The soldiers, who were ordered to pay compensation and do community service, face possible disciplinary proceedings by the Army for the attack on James McGuire in Aldershot last September. Mr McGuire, 33, who was in hospital for ten days, has not been able to work since, is unable to pick up his children and faces a series of operations. He suffered two fractured arms, broken ribs and head injuries.

Judge MacLaren Webster

QC, passing sentence at Winchester Crown Court, described the attack as a "moment of madness". He told the soldiers: "It will be of more value to your country to do some community work than for me to incarcerate you. The service you have given to your country must weigh in your favour. It will not repair the damage to Mr McGuire's broken bones if I were to ruin your lives and Army careers by sending you to prison."

Lance Corporals Stuart Baillie, 26, and Justin Woodcock, 22, and Privates Craig Harris, 23, and James Collins, 21, of The Parachute Regiment, were appearing for sentence after admitting an an-

earlier hearing unlawfully wounding Mr McGuire. Baillie, who was celebrating promotion, was ordered to complete 200 hours community service, pay £4,000 compensation and costs of £175. Collins, Woodcock and Harris were ordered to do 180 hours community service, pay £3,000 compensation and £100 costs.

Imogen Robins, for the prosecution, said Baillie spoke to Mr McGuire when they were queuing to get into a nightclub. "Without warning Baillie punched him on the nose and another paratrooper came up."

Mr McGuire ran off but was tripped up and fell to the

ground: "He was ferociously kicked by the four soldiers," Mr McGuire told the police he heard "cracking noises from my arms as they kicked me".

Julian Critchley, Tory MP for Aldershot, attacked the sentences and called on the Defence Secretary to intervene. "It is a shocking case. There should not be one law for The Parachute Regiment and one for everyone else."

However, Anthony Scriven, QC, a former chairman of the Bar Council, said: "You write a man off if you send him to prison. The community benefits from community service, and they are paying compensation. It's an excellent sentence."

Employer was shot 'for changing rotas'

A WIDOW described yesterday the "laughing, smiling eyes" of a gunman moments before he shot dead her husband in front of their four-year-old son.

Katherine Maidens, 27, told Birmingham Crown Court she thought the man wearing a crash helmet who knocked at their door was delivering pizza. Instead, the jury heard, he was a former employee of her husband, Terry.

Timothy Raggatt, QC, for the prosecution, said that Colin Middleton, 41, had vowed revenge after he walked out on his toolmaking job. "It was a completely ruthless killing, a wholly premeditated killing and carefully planned," he said.

Mr Maidens made changes which Colin Middleton came to resent and they clashed. Various altercations led to his shifts being changed and a modest loss of wage. By November 1993 this man felt a degree of resentment, anger and even hatred towards his boss.

Shortly before leaving, Middleton allegedly told a colleague: "I am not fright-

ened of that bastard. I have a shotgun and I am not frightened to use it." Mr Raggatt told the court that Mr Middleton, who held a shotgun licence, found Mr Maidens' address in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, in the electoral roll.

On the evening of his murder, in January last year, Mr Maidens, 34, had returned from taking his oldest son, Tony, 10, to Scouts, and was sitting in front of the television with Lee 4.

Mrs Maidens said she opened the door to see a man holding a gun. "There was no visor on the helmet and I could see his face. He had laughing, smiling eyes and I did not feel afraid of him." She said the intruder pushed her to the ground and she heard two shots as her husband was hit first in the face, then in the chest. He died instantly. The killer fled on a motorcycle.

Mr Middleton was arrested three days later after Mrs Maidens picked him out from a police photograph. Mr Middleton, of Bartley Green, Birmingham, denies murder. The case continues.

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'It is a sad day when we have to dispose of our greatest asset — we need the funds'

Church sells giant shopping centre to ease cash crisis

By RUTH GLEDHILL
AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE Church of England is to sell its biggest and most profitable commercial asset, the MetroCentre shopping centre in Gateshead, in an attempt to ease its severe financial difficulties.

The sale, for up to £500 million, will help the Church Commissioners, who manage the Church's £2.5 billion assets, to safeguard clergy stipends and pensions.

The MetroCentre, Europe's largest covered shopping centre, has an annual income of £20 million and was valued at £200 million-plus in the Commissioners' latest report.

The Commissioners, who were criticised for investing heavily during the 1980s property boom and losing millions in the subsequent slump, are selling 90 per cent of the freehold and retaining the remainder. The cash will be reinvested, possibly in stocks and shares.

Peter Bruinvels, one of the Commissioners and a former Tory MP, said: "It is a sad day when we have to dispose of our greatest asset. It does show the financial difficulties we are in at the moment. The centre has a very good rental income. The Commissioners need the funds. It is easier to sell off one large asset like this than do a shotgun approach and sell things left, right and centre."

Alan Cooper, a Commis-



Hall: centre made him a millionaire

sioner and chairman of the board of finance in Manchester, one of the poorest dioceses, said: "It was always our long-term plan to get the property portfolio adjusted according to our total investments."

The sale follows a reorganisation of the Commissioners in the wake of the 1993 Lambeth report, commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, which criticised their heavy exposure to property and their borrowing to finance developments.

The Commissioners themselves face restructuring under the review of Church organisation being chaired by the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull. Last Christmas, 160,000

people a day visited the MetroCentre, which has 350 shops, Europe's largest indoor theme park, a multi-screen cinema, restaurants and a bowling alley. A chaplain takes services there for some of the 100,000 shoppers who visit each Sunday.

The Commissioners have instructed the chartered surveyor DTZ Debenham Thorpe to market the MetroCentre. DTZ was appointed as independent valuer of the commercial portfolio in response to the recommendations of the Lambeth report.

Ann Dickens, spokeswoman for the Commissioners, said: "We are too heavily weighted towards owning property and particularly retail property. Last spring we had a major review. We have a large amount of agricultural, business, leisure, industrial and retail property, but within this there is a large imbalance towards the retail side."

The MetroCentre cost £200 million and was jointly developed by the Church and Cameron Hall. The deal, completed in 1987, made a millionaire of the head of Cameron Hall, Sir John Hall, now famous as chairman of Newcastle United.

He bought the land, a 120-acre dump for power station ash, in 1979 for £100,000 and, inspired by American shopping malls, ignored the sceptics who said his ambitious plans would never come to fruition.



The MetroCentre is Europe's largest covered shopping centre, with 350 shops and leisure totalling 2.2 million sq ft

International buyers line up to bid

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PROPERTY investors are jostling in the queue to bid for the MetroCentre, the shopping centre whose sale was announced yesterday by the financially stretched Church Commissioners. Offers from £300 million to £500 million have already been received.

DTZ Debenham Thorpe, the Commissioners' agents, said: "We have been knocked down in the rush. We already have 30 parties seriously interested in the property." The international competition will be strengthened by the

Government's recent ruling against large out-of-town shopping centres.

The buyer of the 2.2 million sq ft centre is expected to be a large property fund such as Prudential Global Realty or a consortium bid, including a British property company, arranged by Goldman Sachs's Whitehall Fund. Large German funds are also said to be interested.

The MetroCentre, Britain's most profitable shopping centre, is the Church's largest asset, representing about 15 per cent of its property portfolio, worth £1.2 billion last year. The Church is selling a

200-year lease. Mike Cutleridge of DTZ said that upward rent reviews were expected on a third of the 333 tenancies, and indicated that rents could reach £30 million in a couple of years.

The sale follows a dramatic fall in the value of the assets owned by the Commissioners and criticism of its management and the heavy weighting towards commercial property. It sold the Gracechurch Centre in Sutton Coldfield in 1993. Also up for sale is Beechwood Place, a shopping centre in Gloucester, and The Marlows retail centre in Hemel Hempstead.

Addict in fatal lorry crash is jailed

Richard Howard, 33, of Ashton upon Mersey, Manchester, a drug addict, who ran over and killed Corrina Boulton, 15, when he drove through a red light in a stolen truck a month after being banned from driving, was jailed for eight years by Manchester Crown Court.

Meningitis death

Caroline Watson, 3, died of meningitis within hours of developing symptoms at her home in Sunderland. Two other children in the city who contracted the disease are responding to treatment.

Polluter pays

The head of a waste disposal firm was jailed for six months for breaking planning and pollution laws. Brian Morrell, 56, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, ignored orders to close the site near Knaresborough.

Injured girl dies

Jenny Newbury, 12, who was knocked down by a police patrol car as she crossed the road with a friend near her home in Salford, Greater Manchester, on Sunday night, has died in hospital.

Rescue beacon

David Hockey, 53, who staggered into the sea with head injuries after crashing his car in the dark at Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was rescued by firemen who saw his bald head glinting in the water.

Flexible foe

A 6ft male doll, timed to inflate and deflate at regular intervals and thus scare away birds, has won international orders from farmers and anglers for the Cambridgeshire firm of Clarratts.

Highest flyer

Fred Finn, a businessman from Guildford, Surrey, who holds the world record for airline travel, will celebrate his 11 millionth mile in the air on a flight from London to Nairobi on Friday.

Drug-ridden prison needs a needle exchange, says inspector

By LUCY BERRINGTON

A NEEDLE exchange system should be established at Svalby Prison in Cheshire, where up to 80 per cent of inmates abuse heroin, a report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons says today.

Judge Stephen Tumim's report, partially leaked last week, highlights drug abuse among women held at Svalby Prison and Young Offender Institution, where a typi-

cal inmate was said to "go in a shoplifter and come out an addict". Almost all prisoners were using cannabis and 80 per cent were on opiates, mainly heroin, with 60 per cent of those sharing needles, the report said.

Apart from the recommended needle exchange, the report calls for the provision of bleach and sterilising tablets to reduce the risk of hepatitis and HIV infection. The relaxed and "somewhat chaotic"

regime disguised the extent of the drug problem, Judge Tumim said. As reporters toured the jail yesterday, women shouted "Do you want some heroin?" from open windows.

But Michael Goodwin, who became the prison governor two weeks after Judge Tumim's inspection in July last year, said yesterday that the report was outdated and the problem exaggerated. "I don't believe this prison turns shoplifters into junkies. The evidence about

drugs in the report is mainly anecdotal." Svalby would be added to the list of eight prisons piloting a scheme for mandatory drug testing, he said. Other measures, including the establishment of a substance abuse strategy group, had been taken during the past eight months. The Tumim report was based on an unannounced short inspection of Svalby followed by a visit from a health inspector.

The report found the drug prob-

lem was aggravated by acute boredom despite good basic amenities. Of just over 200 prisoners at Svalby, 52 were convicted of or charged with drug-related offences. Five out of eight were active drug users on arrival at the prison, which had no detoxification process. Drugs were generally thrown over the fence or smuggled in after home leave or temporary release. Judge Tumim said. They were freely available in Svalby, with 50 per cent of the

prisoners on cocaine, 15 to 20 per cent using amphetamines, 10 per cent dabbling in LSD and 60 per cent using benzodiazepines, mainly Temazepam, the report found.

Judge Tumim said: "There is no room within an active, positive regime for drug abuse and that is why we were so concerned to find in a prison like Svalby that the problem was so widely and openly acknowledged. It appeared little was being done to improve the situation."



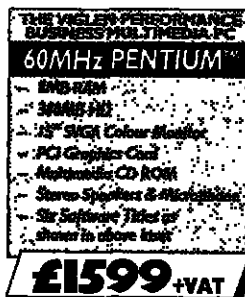
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'Public enemy' counters threats from extremists with guard dogs, security lights and bomb searches

Veal farmer on hit list turns home into fortress

BY TIM JONES
AND JOHN SHAW

VISITORS to Richard Haddock's farm in the West Country could be forgiven for thinking they were in rural Rhodesia before the white regime fell. Since being painted by animal rights extremists as a public enemy he has been forced to spend thousands of pounds turning his farm into a fortress.

Security lights surround his remote farmhouse near Kingswear, Devon, doors are triple locked and guard dogs live in pens among the animals. He has received hate mail and been told that his movements are being monitored. Bomb disposal officers have told him how to open his post and any package which arrives at Coleton Barton Farm is left in the yard to be carefully opened behind bags of soil.

If he has doubts, Mr Haddock has to call in the bomb squad although the package may contain only a tractor



Richard Haddock: taking precautions

part. Before shipping his animals off to market or to a port for export Mr Haddock and his staff check the lorries to ensure they are free of bombs. He said: "It has become a way of life, but I am not frightened. I just take reasonable and sensible precautions."

Since being placed on the extremists' hit list Mr Haddock has bought labradors

and built pens for them inside animal sheds. "I could have got rottweilers but that would have been to go down the same road as the people who wish to harm me. Labradors are good listeners and will give me plenty of time to secure my house and ring the police. Fortunately, because of a local drugs problem, I am in a high response area."

Mr Haddock, 37, considers himself to be a model farmer and takes pride in rearing up to 700 beef cattle on his 850 acres. "My calves are raised with their mothers until they are nine months old, spending summer and spring in the open eating fresh grass. They are moved inside for the winter into spacious buildings on which I have spent more than £500,000."

"I consider myself to be in the forefront of the welfare of farm animals. It is in my interest to be so. But I support the export of calves while pressing for the Dutch and others to change their prac-

tices. They must be given time, however, or a whole industry and livelihood will be at risk." David O'Connell, a veal producer on a small family farm in Bedfordshire, also admits that he and his wife feel threatened by the rise in attacks on the livestock trade by extremists. But he said the cost of fortifying his farm against a violent minority would mean bankruptcy.

Mr O'Connell and his wife Diane, who run Top Farm at Liddington, were watching television on Sunday when a report came on about four incendiary bombs being found on an animal transporter at Billing, Northamptonshire.

He said: "We looked at each other and we just thought 'are we next?' We didn't speak about it, but the cost of any security measures that would give us any sense of total coverage would bankrupt us."

"I think that what we are doing here is what the concerned middle-class protester would accept was the real way out of the problem," he said.



David O'Connell with veal calves at his farm in Bedfordshire. He says a security system would bankrupt him

"But we are involved with animals and I'm afraid that some of the extreme animal organisations think that just because you farm animals that's enough to cause problems." Mr O'Connell and his wife are successful producers of "rose veal", pink-coloured

meat from animals kept in loose pens. The colour stems from the development of muscle in the animal resulting from freedom to move about and being fed roughage. It is quite different from the white meat in demand on the Continent. Top Farm's produce is

sold at Waitrose as "British veal" or "English farmhouse veal" and the company's senior meat buyers visit the premises regularly.

Mr O'Connell is planning to bring 250 calves to market this year and is as opposed as anybody else to the veal crate

system. But if the practice was banned in Europe he said many farmers wondered if the protesters would then stop their demonstrations or whether the extremists would simply attack something else.

Farmers fight back, page 1

Untrained climbing instructor jailed

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A CLIMBING instructor who lied about his qualifications to teach trainee mountaineering leaders was jailed for three months yesterday.

Magistrates heard that Ian Woods, 30, claimed that he had a qualification approved by the Mountain Leader Training Board. He taught at Hyde House adventure training centre near Wareham, Dorset, in the autumn of 1993, six months after the death of four schoolchildren in Lyme Bay canoe tragedy had focused attention on unqualified instructors in the industry.

Jonathan Goodge, for the defence, told Wareham magistrates that Wood's employers at Hyde House were aware that he was not qualified, but had "turned a blind eye". "My client was pressurised by his employers to be seen as having qualifications, while not being allowed time off work or given funding to pursue those qualifications. They were aware he wasn't qualified but chose to turn a blind eye to it," he said.

Anne Dearle, the magistrate, said the offence was so serious that only a custodial sentence was appropriate. "The reasons for this decision are because your actions could have put people's lives at risk and it was a pre-meditated offence."

Woods, of Bideford, Devon, admitted issuing a false training certificate. He also admitted dishonestly obtaining £40 by deception by claiming to be a Single Pitch Supervisors Award Course Provider.

After the hearing, a spokesman for the Mountain Leader Training Board said the consequences of Wood's actions could have been "horrendous". Devon and Dorset Adventure Holidays, which owns Hyde House, rejected Wood's claim that they had known he was underqualified.

Last Glenn Miller sessions released

TWENTY previously unreleased recordings, believed to be the last Glenn Miller made, are to be issued on Monday.

They were completed two weeks before the American trombonist and composer vanished on a flight over the Channel in December 1944 en route from England to Paris. The tunes, contained on a 36-track double album, *Glenn Miller - The Last Recordings*, were recorded at the Abbey Road studios in London and broadcast to German troops as part of the Allied propaganda campaign after D-Day.

Copyright has now lapsed and, 50 years on, they can be released. Experts say that the recordings, which unusually include a fine string section, are some of the best he made.

Four of the lost tracks feature the singer Dinah Shore. Others include versions of the bandleader's old favourites such as *In The Mood*, *Moonlight Serenade* and *Little Brown Jug*.

Alan Dell, BBC Radio 2 presenter, said: "Historically this is an important release which adds another chapter to the Glenn Miller story and his wonderful Allied Expeditionary Force Orchestra."



Miller: died 50 years ago

Disabled widow beaten to death

BY LIN JENKINS

A PARTIALLY disabled 71-year-old widow who was savagely beaten in her bed by an intruder probably struggled to raise the alarm before she collapsed and died.

Mary Smith's body was found by her son and daughter-in-law when they let themselves into her council house at Gravesend, Kent, to light the fire on Monday morning. They found her lying in the doorway of her bedroom at the rear of the house.

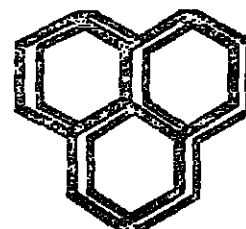
Police described the attack as "brutal and horrendous", particularly because of Mrs Smith's inability to defend herself. She had been severely beaten on the head and upper body. The attacker broke in through the back door. Police have found nothing missing although a more thorough search has yet to be made.

Neighbours on the King's Farm estate, where Mrs Smith had lived for 45 years, have been devastated by her brutal death. She was virtually housebound and, since her

husband died a few months ago, relied on others to do her shopping. When she did venture out she used a wheelchair and needed someone to take her.

Det Supt Owen Taylor, who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "While they may not be the worst injuries I have seen, when you take them in the context of a partially disabled and defenceless old woman, words fail me." Neighbours recalled a charming lady who often watched the world go by from her doorstep. They said they believed Mrs Smith might have been the victim of a bungled burglary.

Kathleen Westwood, 67, said she was devastated by her friend's death. "Mary was one of the sweetest people you could wish for. She was very independent and if I ever asked to do anything for her she would refuse and say she wanted to get the most use out of her legs while she had the chance. It is terrible that this should have happened to her."



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*Survey published in The Daily Telegraph, Saturday January 7th 1995. Source: Telesure. Telephone lines open 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday, 9am - 1pm Saturday.

England footballer faces jail for attack on taxi driver

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE England and Chelsea footballer Dennis Wise was found guilty of assault and criminal damage yesterday for breaking a taxi window and attacking the driver. Sentence was deferred until March 13, pending reports, but Geoffrey Breen, the magistrate at London's Horseferry Road court, warned Wise that he faced "a serious risk of custody".

Mr Breen dismissed Wise's claims that he had punched through the glass partition in the taxi and shaken the driver Gerald Graham, 65, by the hair because his girlfriend was being dragged along by the open door of the cab. "I am satisfied he got into the cab and smashed the dividing window not because he wanted to stop the cab, because it was already stationary, but because he wanted to get at the cab driver," Mr Breen said. Eric Hall, Wise's agent, said after the hearing: "We are all

stunned, particularly by the magistrate's last comment. We will have to think very carefully about appealing. We just cannot believe it, but it won't affect his career. He will report with the England squad on Sunday."

The incident followed a visit by Wise, 27, and his girlfriend Geraldine Lennon to Scribes West, the London club owned by the England coach Terry Venables, on October 8. When they left they flagged down the cab and asked to go to Shepherd's Bush.

An argument ensued when Wise told the driver that they wanted to go on to Boston Manor Road in west London. "He told me to get out. He didn't say why, he just said 'Get out'," claimed Wise, of East Acton, west London. "He drove ten yards as if to take us and then he stopped quickly and Geraldine said 'Let's get out'. She opened the door and stepped out and he accelerated

away and she just went flying. She was holding on to the door. "I punched the window because I wanted him to stop and broke the partition. I grabbed him by the hair and said 'Stop'. I was worried what was going to happen to her," he said.

Police who happened to be near by arrested Wise. During the trial, adjourned from last month, the taxi driver said Wise flew into a "real rage" and started punching the driver's door window and kicking the cab. Mr Graham said his foot came off the brake and the cab, an automatic, moved forward. Mr Breen dismissed Wise's claims that he had merely punched through the partition glass. "I am satisfied that he did it by kicking, not sitting in the back seat but giving it a full blooded kick of sufficient force to break the toughened glass between him and the driver."



Dennis Wise, left, arriving at court yesterday with his agent Eric Hall. Afterwards, Mr Hall said: "We are all stunned. We will have to think very carefully about appealing"

Fugitive gives cell as former address

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A DRUG smuggler on the run for 14 years from a Greek jail faces extradition from Britain after he filled in a form giving his former address as a Greek prison.

Gary Hayes, 44, was jailed in 1980 for 12 years for smuggling 2.7 kg of cannabis into Greece from Egypt, but escaped a year later. He came home to England, married and lived a quiet life in a suburban semi.

When he was injured in a brawl last month he lodged a claim with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Surprisingly, in the past addresses section he volunteered the name of the Greek prison where he had been held. Not surprisingly, the board contacted the police and he was arrested.

Yesterday at his home in Whiteley Bay, Tyne and Wear, Mr Hayes said: "I'm dumbstruck that this has happened. I have been living openly since my escape and I can't understand why I was served with a warrant."

Last month he was released on £25,000 bail to appear on Friday before Bow Street magistrates in London to face extradition charges.

Mr Hayes denied the drugs charges before the Greek court, claiming he possessed only a small amount for his own use. He said he had no idea that his car had been packed with drugs.

Tiger bone medicines seized in raids

POLICE have seized medicines made from tigers and other endangered species in raids on pharmacies and stores in Manchester's Chinatown, London and Birmingham.

In a joint operation between three forces, Customs officers and the Department of Environment's global wildlife division, boxes of tiger bone powder and derivatives of antelope, cobra and mink deer were confiscated. All are traditionally used in Chinese medicine.

Customs have seized similar specimens before, but a Greater Manchester Police spokesman said it was the first time search warrants had been issued to the police since legislation in 1985 to try to control the international trade.

The tiger is one of the world's most endangered species, hunted almost into extinction by poachers. Other protected animals threatened by the Chinese medicine trade are bears, hunted for their bile, and rhinoceroses, whose horns are considered an aphrodisiac and can make £10,000 an ounce on the black market.

Thieves stole 2,000 tiger tails and 300 penises worth £10,000 from a venison supplier in Grantown-on-Spey, Highland. They are usually dried and ground for cooking and tonics, but are also used as aphrodisiacs in the Far East.

TODAY

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Lotus
Working Together

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand from the Macallan Pairs proved surprisingly difficult to bid to a slam. Mahmood and Sharif were one of the successful pairs.

Dealer North	Game all IMPs
♠A8843 ♥AQ ♦J ♣Q10875	♠652 ♥863 ♦A10742 ♣43
♠KJ107 ♥74 ♦K985 ♣J96	♠10 ♥KJ10952 ♦Q83 ♣AK2

W	N	E	S
Kasle	Zia	Levin	Sharif
—	1♠ (1)	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠ (2)
Pass	4♠ (3)	Double (4)	Pass
Pass	4♥ (5)	All pass	5♥
Pass	6♥		

1 Many players with 5-5 in the blacks open One Club
2 Sharif has to continue on the slam trail, so invents a suit.
3 Splinter bid, showing good club support.
4 Pointless — it just gives the opponents an extra round of bidding.
5 Having shown club support by his Four Diamond bid, this is a heaven-sent opportunity to show his heart support.

Only three pairs out of eight bid the slam. This was one of the other successful auctions:

W	N	E	S
Meckroth	Czerniewski	Rodwell	Price
—	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♠	Double	Pass
Pass	6♠	All pass	

KEENE on CHESS

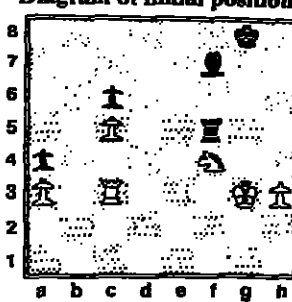
BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Determination

The Fide semi-final match in Sanghi Nagar, India, between Gata Kamsky (United States) and Valery Salov (Russia) is too close to call. In previous games between the two, Salov has built up a modest plus score. However, in the past year Kamsky has become a much improved player and has, in particular, sharpened his tactical skills. This win by Salov, achieved four years ago, shows his grim determination and technical finesse to advantage. Salov squeezes out an endgame win in a long struggle against his young opponent.

White: Salov
Black: Kamsky
Linares 1991

Diagram of initial position



47 h4	Kg7
48 Nd3	Rf6
49 Nf4	Rf5
50 Nd3	Rf6
51 Nd4	Rg6+
52 Kf4	Rf6
53 Ke5	Ba6
54 Rc4	Bf7
55 Rf4	Bf3
56 Kd4	Rg6
57 Ke5	Rf6
58 Kd4	Rg6
59 Nd3	Rg1
60 Ne5	Rd1+
61 Kc3	Rd1+
62 Kb4	Bd5
63 Rd4	Rb1+
64 Kx4	Kf6
65 Nd3	Rf6
66 Kd5	Rd6+
67 Kd4	Rd6+
68 Ka5	Rd6+
69 Kb6	Rd6+
70 Nb4	Rd6+
71 Kc7	Ke5
72 Rg4	Kf5
73 Nc6+	Kf6
74 Rg5+	Kf6
75 Ne5	Rd6
76 Kd6	Rd6
77 Ne5+	Kf7
78 Ng4+	Kf8
79 Nf6+	Kf8
80 Nf4+	Kf7
81 Ne3	Rf2
82 h5	Bd7
83 c5	Bd7
84 Nc4	Rd2+
85 Ng4	Bd8
86 Kc7	Kd5
87 h6	Kd5
88 Rh5	Kd5
89 h7	Kd5
90 Ne5	Black resigns

Both second-round games in the semi-finals were drawn.

Winning Move, page 48

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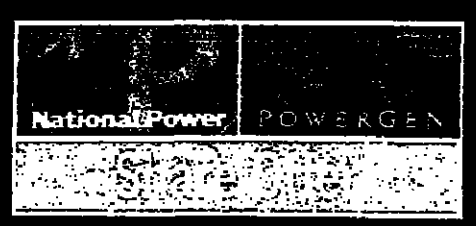
FEBRUARY

Tiger bone
medicine
seized
in raid

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The Nolan inquiry

Curbing ministers' job prospects 'could be illegal'

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

MEMBERS of the Nolan committee clashed yesterday with David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, who told the inquiry into standards in public life that restricting former ministers' rights to take private-sector jobs might be illegal.

In the most spirited exchanges since the inquiry began four weeks ago, Mr Hunt was told by one member that the committee was "surprised and disappointed" by the Government's attitude. Another member, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, responded to Mr Hunt's defence of the present guidelines on ministerial conduct by dismissing them as "banal and meaningless".

Mr Hunt, who was presenting the Government's evidence to the committee, was later said to have taken an "almost contemptuous" attitude towards it after he had described the inquiry as an "unhappy and unnecessary chapter".

In a strong and emotional personal statement, Mr Hunt said that public confidence had been destroyed and politicians traumatised because colleagues and revered institu-

tions has been "defamed and attacked with slurs, innuendo and downright lies".

Although he conceded that there was an "increased need for durable and demonstrable safeguards in order that our public life should be seen to be above reproach", he insisted that all allegations against ministers were unfounded. He said that the Prime Minister had invited evidence to the contrary "and received none".

Asked directly by Lord Nolan whether the Government's mind was already fixed against new rules on the employment of former ministers, Mr Hunt said: "You are completely free to tender whatever advice you choose." But, he said, those advocating tighter restriction had not thought through the consequences and he suggested that restricting the employment prospects of ministers could be illegal under restraint of trade.

Similar rules, which require senior civil servants to seek permission for all business appointments within two years of retiring, are not legally enforceable. Lord Nolan replied that although the courts had put strict limits on what could be

imposed, there were examples of many employment contracts that placed restrictions on employment elsewhere. He suggested that government ministers could perhaps be better paid in return for accepting tighter restriction.

Mr Hunt, showing one of the few flashes of humour in an otherwise irritable round of exchanges, refused to be drawn further on the legal implications. "I do not want to go down that road. I am merely a solicitor while you are a judge," he told Lord Nolan.

Mr Hunt had appeared to suggest in his opening statement that the Government was not prepared to consider new rules. "In all the areas under consideration by this committee the Government will look carefully at any recommendations made," he said. "But on the business appointments of former ministers, I have to say that I believe, and the Government believes, that it is still right to leave decisions about these matters to the judgment of individuals."

After yesterday's hearing, there seems even less doubt



that the Nolan committee will recommend some form of supervision of business appointments, whether voluntary or binding. Most observers believe that the Government will have to find a way to accommodate such a recommendation and were surprised by Mr Hunt's hard line, which potentially paves

the way for an embarrassing U-turn.

The Labour MP Peter Shore was "surprised and disappointed" that the Government did not recognise that "there is here a matter of genuine public concern that procedures which apply to civil servants should be considered inappropriate for ministers".

Mr Hunt accused him of making the inquiry party political. Ann Taylor, the Shadow Public Services Minister, later criticised Mr Hunt's evidence as arrogant and complacent. "If he thinks it is all an unnecessary chapter, perhaps he should ask his prime minister why he set the inquiry up," she said.

MPs clear Hamilton of rule breach

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

TORY MPs were accused last night of a "whitewash" in clearing the former minister Neil Hamilton of breaching Commons rules by failing to declare a holiday taken at the Ritz hotel in Paris.

Labour MPs on the Commons Members' Interests Select Committee are to increase pressure for Mr Hamilton and Mohammed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods and the Ritz, to give oral evidence on more serious allegations against the former corporate affairs minister.

The Labour members are infuriated by the majority decision to turn down an MP's complaint without calling Mr Hamilton as a witness. The committee considered the Ritz allegation separately from claims, vehemently denied by Mr Hamilton, that he received vouchers and cash from Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Hamilton resigned as minister in October after claims that he failed to declare a £4,000 stay at the Ritz in 1987. The MPs decided that he could not have breached new rules on members' interests, which were not drawn up until after his stay.

Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, has called for Lord Lester of Herne Hill, who has accused colleagues not declaring cash payments, to give evidence to the members' interests committee.

Private sector to help draft laws

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH CLARKE is to bring private-sector lawyers into the Treasury in a move to simplify complicated financial legislation.

Last night the Chancellor announced a pilot scheme under which independent barristers and solicitors would take over the work of government draftsmen and draw up parts of next year's Finance Bill, which implements the Budget. The plan, clearly designed to boost Mr Clarke's reputation as a moderniser of the machinery of government, is expected to be welcomed by business leaders who have long complained about the length and complexity of modern legislation. If successful it is almost certain to be followed up by other departments.

Mr Clarke made plain in a speech to the European Policy Forum that his proposal will be an experiment. But he said that the benefits could be a widening of the range of talent available to departments and an easing of the time pressures caused by the volume of work faced by draftsmen.

He paid tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the parliamentary counsel who draft Bills at present but said that bringing in private lawyers could help to provide fresh thinking. Barristers with many years' experience in the courts on technical subjects might be better placed than general draftsmen to cope with the specialist problems arising in financial services, tax law or insolvency law.

Large law firms were already undertaking government work and there was no reason to think that they could not contribute. "Finance Bills are not regarded as a model of perfection by judges, practitioners or British businessmen and we must not be afraid to try to find new ways to improve them."

Mr Clarke said the size and nature of the State was changing. There were 10,000 fewer civil servants now than last April and the number had fallen by 40,000 since 1992. The Civil Service was at its smallest since 1939 and the number of staff was expected to fall well below 500,000 within four years.

PETER RIDDELL

Spellbound Hunt is blind to public's legitimate concern

David Hunt has seriously misjudged the Nolan inquiry. Over nearly two hours yesterday, his approach was a mixture of the blustering, the defensive and the partisan. He did not even seem to understand why it was necessary to set up the inquiry in the first place.

For him, the allegations last autumn were part of a breakdown of the previous consensus on public life with "colleagues and revered institutions being defamed and attacked with slurs, innuendo and downright lies. It seems that nothing is sacred, and even that nothing can be the same again." Mr Hunt set greater store by the committee's success "so that we can all put this unhappy and

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

unnecessary chapter well behind us".

That is bunkum and balderdash of a high order. It underestimates public worries, as reflected in the evidence to the inquiry. This is only partly to do with charges of specific misconduct by MPs or former ministers, which may in many, though not all, cases be exaggerated or misplaced. Aside from the issue of MPs' self-regulation, not Mr Hunt's responsibility, the real worry is that public standards are not being seen to be maintained. There are legitimate, and not just scurrilous worries, about ex-ministers'

posts and the extension of ministerial patronage. As several members of the committee have pointed out, public perceptions are crucial.

Mr Hunt does not seem to recognise that reassurance is necessary. In his eyes, all have behaved honourably, there are no scandals and, hence, there is no need for new safeguards about, say, former ministers taking up other jobs. He drew attention to paragraph 105 in *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, their official rule book, which says that, while there are no formal restrictions on former ministers taking up posts, "they should naturally avoid any course which would reflect adversely on their or the Government's reputation for integrity or the confidentiality of its

proceedings". He repeated the word "integrity" like a magic incantation. But unfortunately its spell no longer works. As Lord Thomson of Monifieth dryly pointed out, this paragraph is "by itself so general as to be rather banal and meaningless". Mr Hunt argued that it would be unfair to penalise ex-ministers who become businessmen when others could write memoirs or become journalists. But this case was punctured when it was pointed out that books by former ministers had to be vetted in detail.

Appeals to integrity are no longer enough. Mr Hunt did not recognise that there are alternatives to barring ex-ministers from employment by companies with which they were involved when in office, as Labour

has suggested. One possibility, favoured by members of the committee, would be some kind of vetting machinery, as already happens with civil servants. Whether or not there is much abuse now, that does not remove the need for public safeguards. Mr Hunt annoyed members of the committee, and misjudged its approach, by suggesting that Peter Shore was being partisan in raising the vetting option.

On appointments to quangos, the Government's proposals for introducing greater transparency and advertising vacancies are, as I discussed yesterday, welcome in providing reassurance about the current system. But they do not tackle the basic question of whether

appointments to such a large number of public bodies should be made mainly by ministers. Mr Hunt was let off gently yesterday, partly because one or two committee members were content to go down obscurantist by-ways of procedure. He was not required to explain how various types of agency had arisen.

The Nolan inquiry does not consist of wild radicals. But most of its members believe that something is wrong: that public confidence in political institutions has declined and needs to be restored. Mr Hunt was doing the Government's case a disservice by claiming that his concern is unjustified and that reform is unnecessary.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour literati pen sequel to Clause 4

THE Labour "luvvies" are giving Tony Blair a helping hand in the row over Clause Four by drafting their own version of the Labour Party's constitution (Jill Sherman writes).

Fay Weldon, Michael Frayn, Margaret Drabble and Michael Holroyd have submitted several drafts of Clause Four, each designed to fit onto the back of a membership card. The drafts, which are

to form part of the Fabian Society's contribution to Labour's consultation on rewriting the party's commitment to nationalisation, are an attempt to lift the debate onto a different plane.

Lord Dubs, the chairman of the Fabian Society, said: "Too much of the debate about Clause Four has involved swapping dry and unexciting alternatives to an original series of words with a

power beyond their literal meaning."

Ms Weldon has submitted two versions based on the same theme: "To secure for everyone who by hand or brain contributes to the general wealth of the nation, the equitable distribution of that wealth amongst them." Mr Frayn's, however, is the most succinct and elegant: "To set some bounds to the tyranny of the fortunate."

Socialist MEPs try to heal rift

By a Staff Reporter

LABOUR MEPs face a tough battle next week against attempts by some of their European counterparts to commit the party to a radical federalist agenda for the 1996 conference on the EU's future. Deep divisions over the issues that will dominate the inter-governmental conference emerged at a two-day meeting of European Socialists in Brussels that ended yesterday. Before an important vote next week, Pauline Green, MEP for London North and leader of the 22-strong Socialist Group in the European Parliament, will try to reconcile the views of the federalists and those in favour of more limited reform.

Moderate Labour MEPs are anxious not to sign up to any proposals that could embarrass the Labour leadership at home by committing its representatives in Strasbourg to a hardline federalist agenda for 1996.

Yesterday Mrs Green said there was "overwhelming backing" for the abolition of Britain's opt-out from the Maastricht treaty social chapter, opposition to any attempts to weaken the EU or move towards a multi-speed Europe, agreement on the need for a single currency and support for the European Par-

liament to be given more powers.

But whereas the British Labour Group leader, Wayne David, insisted on preserving Britain's right of veto in sensitive areas such as taxation, home affairs and defence, other Socialist MEPs supported demands for a gradual move towards majority voting in all areas of EU policy.

The Socialist Group was also split over other controversial proposals contained in a paper published last week drawn up by the former French European Affairs Minister Elisabeth Guigou, now an MEP and vice-president of the Socialist Group, including calls for the EU to have a "genuine president" in charge of the European commission and the Council of Ministers.

Mrs Green said that she would produce a paper by the end of this week setting out the "guidelines" for the Group's policy on 1996, which would be voted on next week if time permitted. But she emphasised that the vote would not set the Socialist Group's policy in "tablets of stone." The group is also setting up a telephone hotline for the public so that it can work out proposals that will carry "the support of the people of Europe".

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY, in the Commons questions to employment ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by an Opposition debate on the "threat to schools from the 1995-96 financial settlement" and a debate on passenger services under rail privatisation.

The Lords debated the Pensions Bill and the Central European Time Bill.

TODAY, in the Commons, MPs will

sit at 10am for backbench debates starting with the sale of British Coal land. At 2.30pm questions to trade and industry ministers will be followed by debates on Welsh revenue support grant reports and Children (Northern Ireland) orders. The Lords will debate inter-city problems, transport infrastructure policy, the Leichworth Garden City Heritage Foundation Bill and the Scottish rateable values orders.

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Release of wartime documents shines light on fate of British fascists

Lady Mosley threatened legal action over internment



Lady Mosley and her husband in London in 1962

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE wife of the fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley threatened to take legal action against the Home Secretary over the conditions in which she was held in Holloway jail during the Second World War.

According to papers published yesterday, Sir Samuel Hoare, a member of the wartime Cabinet, demanded an urgent report into allegations by Lady Mosley that she had been put in a cell with no bed and left to sleep on a mattress, with dirty blankets and grubby sheets, on a wet floor.

The Home Office files say that, as well as complaining about the conditions, Lady Mosley issued instructions for the care of her jewels, an MG car and domestic cleaning arrangements.

The files did not include details of the 16-hour interrogation of Sir

Oswald by Norman Birken, KC, which were excluded for reasons of political sensitivity or national security. Sir Oswald died in 1980 and his widow has called for the release of papers covering the interrogation.

Lady Mosley, who lives in France, had been arrested at her family home in Denham, Buckinghamshire, in June 1940 and was detained for a further 3½ years. She had to leave a baby of 11 weeks and an 18-month-old child with the family's nanny.

In her statement, dated April 1941, Lady Mosley said that in Holloway she had been taken to F wing and a "completely dark airless and very dirty cell". She said that the prison doctor had been unsympathetic to the fact that she had left an unwedded child at

home and to her complaints about extremely painful breasts.

Sir Samuel wrote to the governor seeking a report. "The allegations, as you will see, are rather serious. We are told... that Lady M is bringing an action against the Home Secretary [Herbert Morrison] for damage for breach of statutory duty."

Lady Mosley's complaints were made several months after she arrived at Holloway and resulted in statements being taken from staff who saw her when she was taken there. A note sent to the Prison Commission said that two days after her arrival Lady Mosley said "she was very well and everyone was very kind to her".

The note added: "This contemporary report carries more weight than Lady Mosley's statement recorded some nine months later."

In her early days in jail, Lady Mosley showed great concern over domestic matters, including the provision of a nursemaid, the value of a painting, cleaning arrangements at a flat and parking facilities for the MG.

"Get in touch with my mother, and tell Lady Redesdale to get a nursemaid if nanny is awfully busy," Lady Mosley is recorded as saying during an interview with a clerk from her solicitor.

"Write or phone Andre, tell her to get Mabel in two or three times a week, to keep the flat clean and use the Hoover. Tell her also to let the War Office know that the Stubbs picture at Denham is worth £2,000 and if those soldiers damage it, they will have to compensate."

She instructs the clerk: "Tell Andre to attend to my jewels, etcetera, also to let Mable have one key to the flat."

Lady Mosley then requests the

clerk to get a copy of the *Sunday Dispatch* newspaper "as I am going to sue them, for saying that I taught my boy to say 'Heil Hitler'". She tells the clerk that on her first night at Holloway, in north London, she was with fascists. "They are wonderful, but I am not with them now."

In October 1940, a note to the Prison Commission states that Lady Mosley had several times asked to be allowed out on parole. However, the note concludes that this would be considered "extremely dangerous".

While in Holloway, Lady Mosley was visited by her mother Lady Redesdale but requests to visit Sir Oswald, who was detained in Brixton, were rejected. A Prison Commission note pointed out that if the Mosleys were allowed to meet it would be difficult to refuse other prisoners' applications.

Nation found propagandist 'amusing'

Public urged King to spare life of Lord Haw-Haw

By ALAN HAMILTON

BUCKINGHAM Palace and Whitehall were flooded with appeals for clemency when the wartime traitor William Joyce was about to hang in Wandsworth jail in 1946.

Documents released by the Public Record Office yesterday disclose a file of letters, telegrams and petitions three inches thick urging George VI, Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister, and Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, to be lenient with the man who earned historical notoriety as the broadcaster Lord Haw-Haw.

Dukes and commoners petitioned the authorities after Joyce's appeal against the death sentence was rejected by a majority decision of the House of Lords. He went to the gallows on January 3,

1946, guilty of treason. The documents also show a Government fearful that Joyce might be acquitted on the technicality of never having been a British subject, despite holding a British passport, and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the British courts. Joyce was born in America, but the British clearly had no wish to embarrass their allies by sending him back there.

A memorandum to the Director of Public Prosecutions, signed by a senior Home Office official shortly before Joyce's trial began, notes: "In view of the notoriety of the case, there can be no doubt that the public will expect immediate action by the Home Office if the man is acquitted. I therefore propose,

if approved, to instruct the Commissioner of Police, in the event of Joyce's acquittal, for his immediate arrest for internment as an enemy alien and his conveyance to Brixton prison to await repatriation [to Germany]."

Joyce, arrested in Germany in the last days of the war by a British Army captain who recognised his voice, failed in his efforts to prove that he was not British. But his conviction elicited a remarkable amount of sympathy, from the then Duke of Bedford downwards.

"I gather he has never been charged with betraying military secrets," the duke wrote to Attlee. "I must say that I feel his execution would be an act of quite unjustifiable vindictive severity involving a not inconsiderable degree of hypocrisy as well."

The duke added: "Although in his frequent use of the term 'Jewish', he displayed the exaggerated bigotry characteristic of anti-Semites, Joyce, when telling the British people in his broadcasts that their real enemies were the international financiers, spoke no more than the truth."

Among the letters and cables from ordinary people runs a theme that Lord Haw-Haw was more entertaining than menace. "Can you relieve Joyce? He did no harm: he amused a great number of people," one telegram reads.

A letter says: "I listened often to his broadcasts and never heard him say a word against England, the King or the British Empire. He only attacked the politicians who, he concluded, were dragging the country to its ruin... He warned this country of the result of letting loose the Red Army in Europe, a warning which appears to have a solid foundation."

One of the letters on the file is from Joyce himself, written on prison notepaper to the Home Secretary, seeking per-



William Joyce: he was arrested in Germany in the last days of the war by an Army captain who recognised his voice

mission for a visit from his wife Margaret. "The bond between us is the closest conceivable. In view of the situation in which I am now placed and of the nervous strain to which my wife has for some months been subjected, I would be most grateful if you could see your way to enabling her to pay me a visit."

Margaret Joyce did indeed visit her husband in Wandsworth several times. But as an active member of the British Union of Fascists and herself a rogue broadcaster from Germany, she was treated with great suspicion by MI5, which was anxious to prevent her return to Britain after the war in case she became "a stalking horse of some nuisance value".

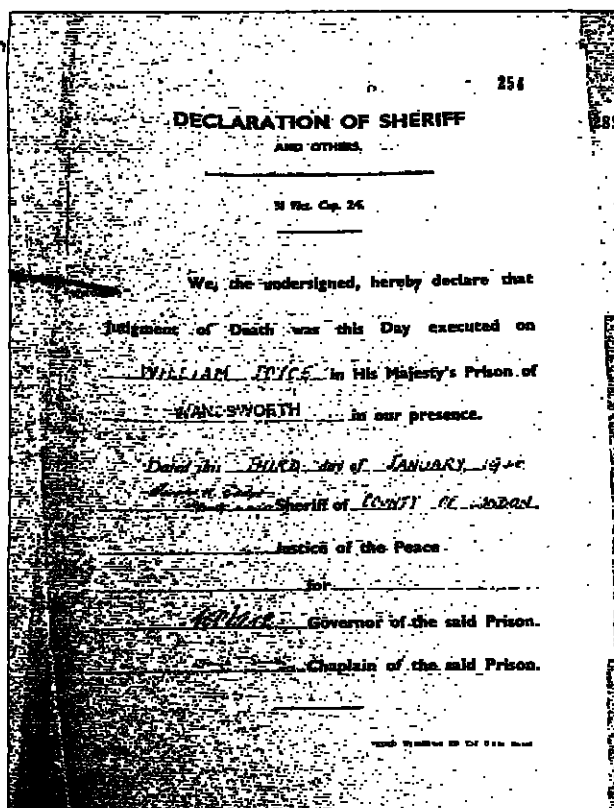
The organisation relented, however. A note from MI5 in London to British Army intelligence in Germany in 1945 concludes: "It has been decided by the authorities not to prosecute this woman... on compassionate grounds."

KEY FIGURES

□ The Mosleys: Lady Mosley (Diana Mitford), widow of Sir Oswald Mosley, who founded the British Union of Fascists. He died in 1980. She married Sir Oswald in Goebbels's home. Hitler brought flowers. She was one of the Mitford sisters, the authors Nancy and Jessica, Unity, and Deborah, now Duchess of Devonshire, and Pamela.

□ William Joyce: a fascist orator in the 1930s. His mocking broadcast messages from Germany to Britain during the war, entitled "Germany Calling", earned him the nickname Lord Haw-Haw. He was executed for treason at Wandsworth Prison in 1946 and 30 years later his body was reinterred at a cemetery in Galway in the Irish Republic.

□ John Amery: executed in 1945 after pleading guilty to treason. He was accused of attempting to form a Legion of St George among British prisoners of war held in France to fight against the Russians. He was the son of Leopold Amery, a Conservative cabinet minister, and the brother of Lord Amery of Lustleigh, the former Julian Amery, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, 1972-74.



The announcement that Joyce had been hanged

Traitor who had ear of Hitler was psychopath and sexual deviant

By ALAN HAMILTON

JOHN AMERY, the traitor hanged in 1945 for trying to recruit British prisoners of war in Germany into a brigade to fight the Russians, was a sexual deviant with a pathological inability to distinguish right from wrong, according to psychiatric tests conducted in his prison cell.

Amery, son of the Secretary of State for India in Churchill's government and brother of Lord Amery of Lustleigh, the former Tory MP Julian Amery, spent the war in occupied Europe lecturing on the need for an Allied force to attack Soviet Russia. He had the ear of Hitler, who encouraged him to broadcast to Britain in the manner of Lord Haw-Haw, although he never did. He was captured by partisans in northern Italy in 1943, brought to Britain to stand trial for treason and executed at Wandsworth jail.

A psychiatrist who examined him in his prison cell reported Amery to be "a severe and long-standing case of psychopathic disorder of the type at one time called 'moral insanity' or 'moral imbecility'. His conduct of life is determined by diseased



John Amery, left, taking tea with German soldiers. He spent the war lecturing in occupied Europe

mental processes." Another expert who questioned him reported that, although married, Amery indulged in homosexual acts for money, had a fascination with prostitutes and enjoyed acts of bondage, enjoying sexual stimulation in moments of fear or panic.

An MI5 report on Amery in 1944 noted: "He has been reported from several sources, including a returned PoW, to be attempting to

induce British PoWs to join a British Legion for service against the Russians."

Documents disclose that Amery went to Hitler to complain about Lord Haw-Haw "yelling out abuse of my fellow countrymen" on his *Germany Calling* broadcasts. The Führer is said to have sympathised, but professed himself powerless to intervene.

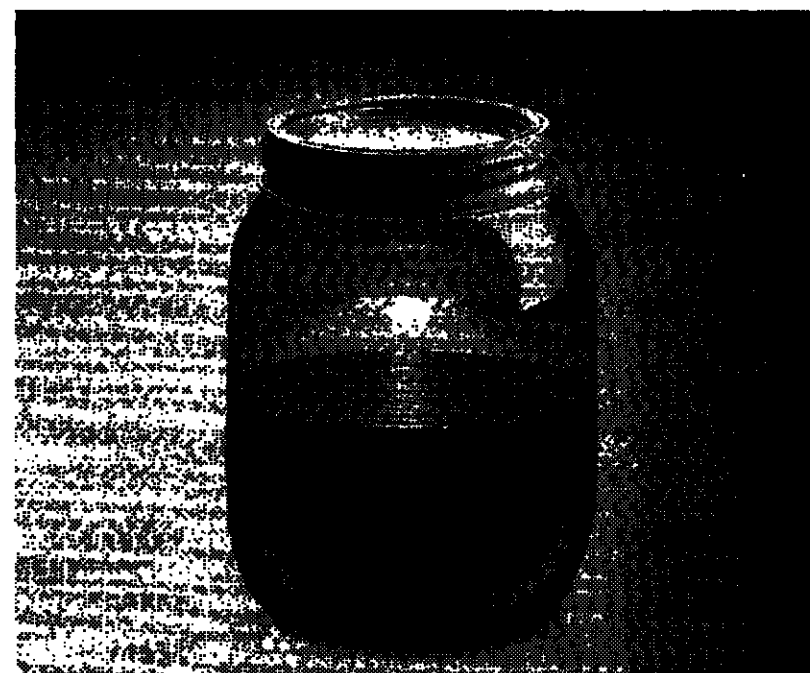
Amery explained his philosophy to British intelli-

gence officers after his capture in Italy. In a signed statement he said: "It was my considered opinion that Europe was in the greatest peril of a communist invasion, that this invasion would sweep the whole continent, and that nothing could stop it, unless the different countries of Europe pushed through a social revolution which would spike the guns of the communists in their worldwide revolutionary activities. It was also our view that the Jewish race was mixed up and working hand-in-glove with Moscow."

Amery admitted that it had come "as a very great shock to me when I heard that England and Soviet Russia had become allies". He felt it had been essential to create a British anti-Bolshevik region, however small.

In one of his lectures in wartime Germany, he described George VI as "the stuttering halfwit they have had the insolence to crown King of England, when they had a perfectly good socialist patriotic king".

Amery was hanged on December 19, 1945; the file of letters pleading for clemency for him is slim.



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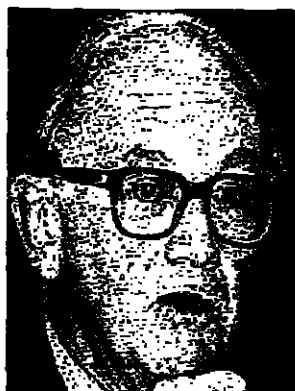
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Fleeing war

Fifteen men in suits tailor plans for European monetary union

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN FRANKFURT

A FLEET of black limousines deposited more than a dozen sober-suited men yesterday morning in front of a nondescript skyscraper at 29 Kaiserstrasse, next door to the gleaming new opera house in Frankfurt. The building's doorway carries a plain black and white sign that sits below the ubiquitous blue and gold stars of the European Union, declaring "Europäische Währungsunion" (European Monetary Union).



Lamfalussy: EMI's calm and precise president



George: at the top table for Britain



Tietmeyer: speaks of German reluctance

On four heavily guarded floors of the tower that they share with Chinese and Japanese banks, the men of the EMI are planning the most momentous peacetime change to Europe's economies since the end of the gold standard. On the first Tuesday of every month, the cars deposit 15 governors of the EU central banks. They are planning the evolution that would turn an

inner group among them into one of the most powerful bodies on the Continent, wielding deep and wide influence over jobs, prices, mortgages and stock markets.

Britain was represented yesterday by Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. Marking France's six-month tenure of the EU's rotating presidency, Edmond

Alphandéry, the Finance Minister, made a one-off appearance. As usual, a senior official from the Italian central bank gave a short rundown on how far the EU governments have got in trying to meet the strict rules for economic convergence laid down in the Maastricht treaty's game plan for a European single currency. The meetings are chaired by

Alexandre Lamfalussy, the EMI's calm and precise Belgian president. The governors discuss how the EMI should transform itself into a European central bank taking over the running of monetary policy from the national central banks and governments qualified to join a monetary union. Will intervention in the world's money markets be run

from Frankfurt or contracted out to the national capitals? Just in case the governors decide to do it from the Frankfurt headquarters, space on the 30th floor has been set aside for a dealing room.

The EMI staff of about 100 people hired from finance ministries and banks write papers on how to reconcile the differing French and English technical definitions of inflation. The EMI council will soon begin to discuss the design, and perhaps even the name, of the currency. M Lamfalussy has hinted that he favours a bird on the banknote.

The EMI is only one of an overlapping network of committees struggling to prepare a financial revolution on an unprecedented scale and in a permanent climate of political uncertainty. The institute decides the banknotes; directors of national mints will settle the appearance, weight and metal mix of the coins. The EU is

advised by Noel Moore, a retired British official, who was the secretary to the committee that organised Britain's decimalisation in 1971.

Decimalisation meant the replacement of only three coins in one country. According to some estimates, European monetary union might require 350,000 tonnes of coin blanks ready for stamping and up to 18 billion banknotes.

Experts agree that even if every national mint worked flat out for four years, they could not meet the need. A committee of experts convened by Brussels recently announced that banks would use a single currency before the notes and coins entered everyday circulation in cash tills and slot machines.

The Maastricht treaty assumes that the new money will be called the ecu, but German politicians have served regular warnings that the term will not be popular with their voters, who are

attached to the mark — which has not been devalued in four decades. Dr Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank and the most powerful person around the EMI table, said brutally last month that deep German reluctance to enter a single currency would not be assuaged by naming it after the present currency unit, which has lost a third of its value in the past ten years.

The technical disputes thus reflect the political battles that will be to the fore of European politics at the end of this decade. Back in Brussels, the powerful EU monetary committee, chaired by the famously taciturn Sir Nigel Wicks, of the Treasury, advises the finance ministers on the most sensitive question of all: which countries have low enough interest rates, public debts and inflation to qualify to join a single currency. The answer to that question depends on Germany. The momentum behind a single currency is

driven by political, not economic, motives. Germany's neighbours, led by France, want to share out the power now in the hands of the Bundesbank to shape monetary policy across the Continent. As one French commentator said yesterday: "The problem remains of how to fit Germany into a European environment. Monetary union is one way of doing this."

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, seems content to press on with monetary union while leaving vague the details of political co-ordination between the states involved. But he is facing trouble on two fronts: younger politicians in his Christian Democratic Union want to insist that a currency union is matched by a true political union and, more immediately, the Chancellor holds power by the narrowest of margins and his coalition is fraying at the edges.

America says Balkans in danger of igniting

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE Balkans are "one spark away from a much wider war", according to Richard Holbrooke, the American Assistant Secretary of State. He echoes growing international alarm about the prospects for peace in the area. Churchill described as producing more history than it can digest.

Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia are rearming — it is believed for a spring offensive — with strains in the Muslim-Croat federation threatening to break into the open. Croatia is preparing to expel the United Nations, which would leave confrontation lines between Croats and rebel Serbs unmaneuvered by peacekeepers.

Serbia is ostensibly continuing to ostracise its old allies in Bosnia, but its real long-term intentions remain unclear. The Bosnian Serbs stubbornly refuse to accept the latest peace plan and give up large swathes of land they have conquered.

An exasperated Mr Holbrooke said this week that Washington had "closed down" discussions with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and would not

resume talks until the Bosnian Serbs were ready to accept the Contact Group peace plan. "There's no point in shutting up the hill from Sarajevo to Pale to listen to the kind of crap which was dished out by Karadzic," he said.

"Things have not been as peaceful in the Balkans in years as they are today. And yet we are one spark away from a much wider war and that spark could come from either Croatia or Bosnia."

Europe is meanwhile calling for a summit of the Bosnian, Croat and Serbian leaders, but since Serbia has rejected the proposal and Dr

Karadzic is not invited, it is unclear what this would achieve. The meeting, planned for Paris later this month, is the brainchild of Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, who says that it is a "last-chance scenario".

The Bosnian Serbs complain that the territory assigned to them by the Contact Group plan comprises disjointed parcels of land of little value without access to the sea. In reality, they are not even happy with what they already control and would like to expel Muslims from the eastern enclaves and to widen the strip of land near Brcko,

which links Bosnian-held territory in the east and north.

Serbia, however, is where the wars in Croatia and Bosnia began, and where they may end. Michael Robinson, the former British chargé d'affaires in Belgrade, says: "An unpredictable and undemocratic Serbia, sitting between existing and potential members of the EU, and playing off major powers and international organisations against one another, will be a constant strain." In a paper published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Mr Robinson calls on the West to encourage democracy in Serbia by coming to the aid of democratic opponents of President Milosevic and the imperilled independent press.

He adds: "Arguably, it was a Western own goal to have excluded Serbia and Montenegro from the CSCE [Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, renamed the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in December] process, when it should have been a priority to raise standards of democracy in rump Yugoslavia."

Factions build arsenals

ALL three ethnic factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina are rearming and reorganising their forces, according to Nato (Michael Evans writes).

The build-up of weapons, which has been going on throughout the three-month ceasefire, is being monitored by surveillance aircraft. A senior Nato official said yesterday that there was a consid-

erable build-up of small arms. Nato is ready to underpin any peace agreement with forces. But there is concern that the effort to find a solution is still "not as co-ordinated as it should be".

The official said: "We have got to draw this war to a close soon, because if we don't it will continue to ferment for years."



Painting gets under way in the seven-yearly facelift of the Eiffel Tower. Twenty-five mountaineers, using ropes and harnesses, yesterday started work

on the monument, built in 1889 as part of the International Exhibition. The team will remove rust from the 2.15 million sq ft of girders and struts

before more than 5.9 tonnes of anti-rust and 'Eiffel Tower brown' paint is applied. The operation will take 14 months and cost £24 million. (AFP)

Kohl seeks new 'contract' with Clinton

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

NEW moves to reshape Nato and to draw up a "new wider transatlantic contract" will be at the heart of a visit to Washington this week by Helmut Kohl.

The German Chancellor and President Clinton have come close to declaring a "special relationship", a contemporary partnership to

match the historically determined ties between London and Washington. That shift occurred during Mr Clinton's visit to Bonn in July; it came amid continuing confusion over whether the allies should use force in the Bosnian war.

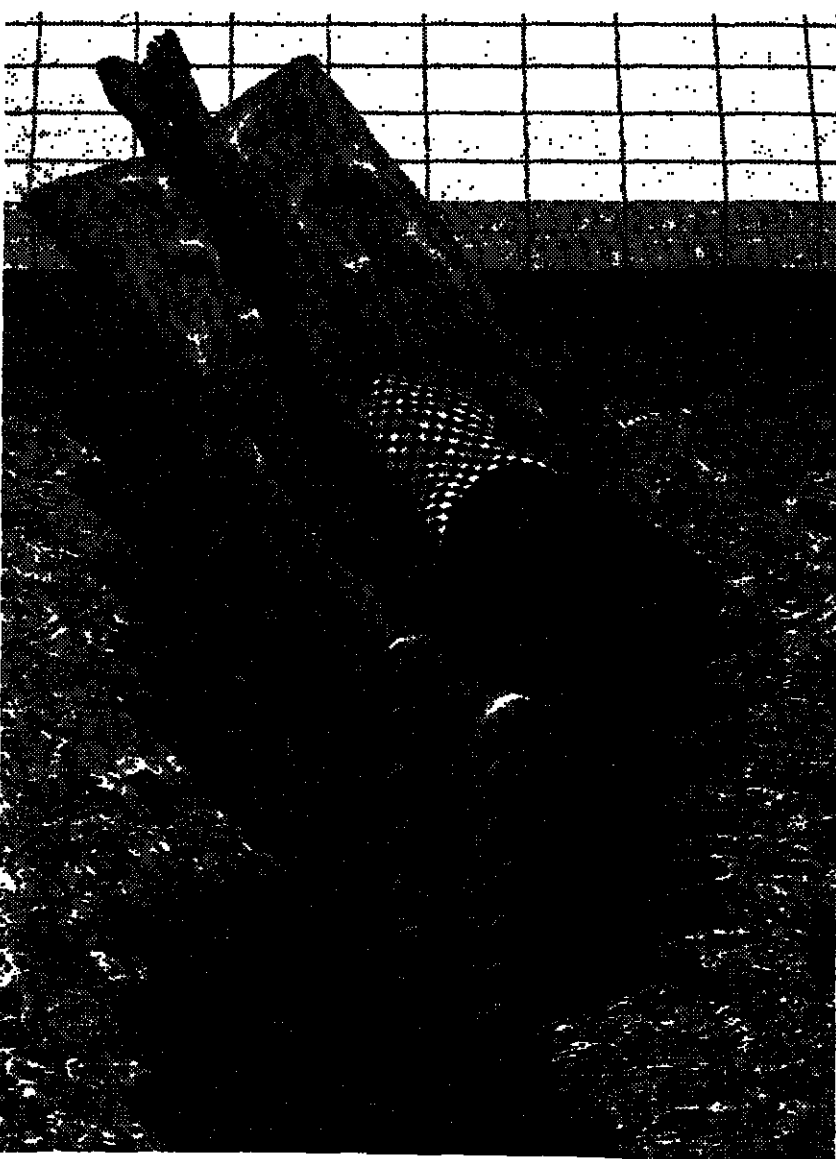
Now the two leaders will try to give substance to the rhetoric about joint global responsi-

bilities. First, they have to work out how the traditional institutions of transatlantic co-operation — above all, Nato — should be adapted to modern circumstances. During the visit, Herr Kohl and Mr Clinton are expected to clear up at least one outstanding issue: the priority to be given to the East European states aspiring

to Nato membership. These detailed policy issues hardly demand personal co-ordination by the leaders.

The real focus will be to work out the capacity for change in the alliance — to broaden co-operation beyond the security dimension and include institutionalised political and economic contacts.

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French habit of squealing returns to terrify officials

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A BAND of city officials and businessmen around Grenoble could sleep soundly last night, free from the possible vengeance of Alain Carignon, the Mayor and recent French Cabinet minister who has been in jail on corruption charges since last October.

In the latest turn in a case that has chilled the political establishment, a judge refused yesterday to release M Carignon. Communications Minister in the Government of Edouard Balladur until last autumn, because he might "trouble public order" and put pressure on witnesses before his trial.

Behind the decision by Judge Philippe Courroye of Lyons lies an outbreak of denunciation to the authorities. The practice of informing, which sent thousands to their deaths in the Revolution and during the Nazi occupation, has made a spectacular appearance in the field of public administration, according to judges, tax inspectors and journalists. Antoine Gaudino, the investigator who unravelled a scandal that helped to sink the Socialist Government in 1993, said that denunciation "is the sign that the law of silence which reigned until now is being shredded".

Informing is as ancient as the human race, but the present wave is being viewed as proof of a notorious streak in the Gallic soul, one that was recorded in literature from Balzac to Simenon and is familiar to anyone who has dealt with an old-style Paris concierge. La Délation, noted *Globe Hebdo* magazine re-

cently, "is a national characteristic, a sort of Gallic original sin". According to *le Nouvel Observateur* magazine: "In today's France we are denouncing, squealing, ratting and turning in more and more, especially in the corridors of power."

Because of painful recent history, when citizens shopped each other in five million letters written to the Vichy authorities, the subject remains sensitive. The police rarely issue photocopied pictures and there was an outcry when television launched an equivalent to Britain's *Crime Watch* in 1993. Nevertheless, the spirit of informing is still encouraged by the authorities, such as the inland revenue, which depends on tips for about 10 per cent of its tax investigations. Cheated wives and mistresses are the richest source, inspectors say.

The Carignon case offers a model for the new fashion. The investigation started when Judge Courroye received a neatly stencilled letter, complete with detailed dossier, of the alleged illicit finances of the mayor-minister. The judge has since waded his way through unsolicited evidence against M Carignon, both anonymous and otherwise. Patrick Thull, director of M Carignon's office, wrote to the judge: "It is my duty to bring to your attention acts to which I have been witness," according to press accounts. M Thull is one of many former allies with whom the Mayor presumably would like to communicate.

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Fleeing Chechens pledge 'war with no front lines'

GROZNY'S Chechen defenders are withdrawing from the centre and south of the city and taking to the hills to regroup, leaving the capital a confusing and menacing no-man's land.

Yesterday, through a smoke-laden mist, I watched from a snowy ditch as a Russian tank clanked past. With softly murmured curses of relief, a 20-strong band of Chechens hidden nearby stood up and moved off into the darkness. Fighters, nurses, and a surgeon, they were among the last to abandon the Chechen command headquarters when the order to do so had come suddenly at midnight.

The route to the headquarters had been unmarked. The Russian advance was grouped around the city in a horseshoe, leaving only a narrow corridor open, approachable on foot to the southwest. As I traced this route through the dim light on Monday afternoon, I encountered only departing Chechen soldiers, who told me that they had been given the order to pull back rather than face encirclement.

A curious stillness hung over Grozny. The Minutka area, for a time a Chechen stronghold after the loss of the Presidential Palace three weeks ago, was now little more than a smouldering architectural skeleton. Burning houses and gas pipes throughout the city glowed through the gathering fog and snow, bathing the devastation in varying shades of orange, and casting strange shadows on the deserted streets and shattered masonry.

As darkness settled the artillery began. From close by came the sound of moving armoured vehicles and the crackle of small-arms fire.

General Aslan Maskhadov, commander of the Chechen forces and a former colonel of the Soviet army, looked tired though not dispirited. He had



Russian troops claim to have taken Grozny, but the withdrawing Chechens are defiant to the end, writes Anthony Loyd, the last British newspaper journalist in the city

just eaten after the day's Ramadan fast, and greeted me in his bunker headquarters below a building near the southern front.

"I can only wonder at the strength with which my men have fought," he said. "The Russians attack us with planes, then artillery, then tanks, levelling the houses before them."

"Yet still my men emerged from the rubble to fight on. But we cannot match the Russian weaponry, and will have to fight a different type of war. It's not a retreat — it's a planned withdrawal. All we can do is fight on, to show not only that we want our independence, but that we are willing to die for it."

General Maskhadov added: "We don't have the munitions, but when one of my soldiers is given ten RPGs I expect eight tanks to be destroyed."

His optimistic mood was reflected by others in the cellars who looked like *Mad Max* extras, with their shaven heads, wild black beards, turbans, clanking bandoliers and flowing coats. The fighters were dancing — the wild and the damned singing as the city burnt.

Among the fighters, no less laden than the others with automatic rifle magazines and warheads, sat a 13-year-old boy called Esa. He had come to fight in Grozny with his father who had been wounded and evacuated, while Esa had chosen to stay. He was skinny, shaven-headed and pale, a

dwarf beside the robust fighters around him. But though his features were smooth and childlike, his words reflected the concerns of the hard-bitten.

"I can feel nothing when I fight on the front line," he said, after claiming to have killed on a number of occasions. "The worst thing is to lose your friends; 19 of mine have died there. The next worst thing is when some men start to panic under fire."

"I did not go to Russia to fight the Russians. I am fighting in my country, for my country, for my village, my people, and my God."

As the revelry subsided some fighters slept while others left to reinforce rear-guard positions nearby. Then came the word to move and the

Chechens departed in groups for a rendezvous far to the south-west. The shelling had become much closer as the Russians pushed forward, and it appeared that, rather than being caught in their loop, General Maskhadov had decided to fall back towards Grozny's remaining gateway.

However the journey was one of protracted effort and confusion. It was uncertain how close the Russians were as their signal flares appeared to be everywhere. But as the sky lightened most parties from the headquarters appeared to have arrived at the new location, and their mood lifted. Thoughts turned to the coming days and their next move.

"I never thought that I would see this happen," said one fighter about his fallen capital. "There will be much blood paid for this. The Russians have made a bad, bad mistake. But we did manage to hold out here for 37 days — Berlin lasted only two weeks in 1945. This war will continue, only now it will be one without front lines."

Grozny's fate, page 16



Members of Russia's crack commando team, Alfa, prepare for a battle in Grozny

Yeltsin lawyer on art theft charge

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A PROMINENT Russian lawyer, once appointed by President Yeltsin to head an anti-corruption investigation, has been charged by police in St Petersburg with complicity in the theft of priceless manuscripts smuggled to Israel.

Dmitri Yakubovsky, who was arrested in December, has been charged with involvement in the theft of artefacts valued at more than £100 million.

Police said that the haul of Oriental documents, some 1,300 years old, had been taken from the Russian National Library in December and later recovered by police in a private apartment.

Two men arrested at the flat said that they worked for Mr Yakubovsky. Israeli police arrested six more people, including the thieves.

However, the circumstances of the arrest and Mr Yakubovsky's previous connections have led many to suspect that he may be the victim of Kremlin intrigue.

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Walesa holds off on threat

Warsaw: President Walesa of Poland, holding back on a threat to dissolve Parliament and giving the coalition Government a breathing space, seems to be awaiting proposals for big Cabinet changes.

Mr Walesa's spokesman said yesterday that the President might wait until next week before adopting "radical measures". He said: "I think the President has given time for decisions... which should be made by the end of this week or early next week." Commentators had been expecting Mr Walesa to declare that he would dismiss the left-wing Government. (Reuters)

Rival expelled

Delhi: India's ruling Congress party expelled Arjun Singh, a former Cabinet member and leading rival of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, in an effort to close ranks before crucial state polls this week. (Reuters)

Teachers strike

Paris: Thousands of French teachers and students took part in a one-day strike in the first serious social unrest since Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, said he would stand for President. (Reuters)

Turtle ban

Suva: The Fiji Government will ban sales of turtles for 12 months to protect them from being hunted to extinction. Their meat is regarded as a delicacy in the South Pacific island nation. (AFP)

Palace polish

Versailles: The palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV, second only in France to the Louvre in the number of visitors it attracts, is to undergo renovation, enlarging its parklands and adding new halls. (AFP)

Navel reserve

Cairo: Egypt's 12,000 professional belly dancers — one for every 5,000 inhabitants — paid more than £9 million in taxes last year, the weekly *Sabah al-Kheir* said, citing tax office statistics. (AFP)

Correction

A map of Cyprus which appeared yesterday was wrongly labelled. The two parts of the island should have been shown as "Turkish Cypriot populated" and "Greek Cypriot populated".



Boesak: second charity under investigation

'Charity funds enriched Boesak'

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE anti-apartheid cleric, the Rev Allan Boesak, is accused of unlawfully enriching himself at the expense of his charitable foundation, funded by Scandinavian donors, in a report to Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President. The report is expected to be leaked by the charity, Danurich Aid, in Cape Town today.

Dr Boesak was appointed Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva last year, but his appointment was put on hold while the allegations were investigated.

The report by Johannesburg lawyers says: "Dr Boesak has enriched himself substantially at the expense of the foundation." It adds that the director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice, Freddy Steenkamp, "has committed serious criminal offences".

The report comments that Dr Boesak's only explanation is that he did not know how his funds were being conducted by Mr Steenkamp. "He justifies a monthly income in excess of what can reasonably be expected, and numerous other benefits, by saying that he left his personal affairs to Mr Steenkamp," it says. "This forces one to the inescapable conclusion that, in the absence of plausible explanations by Dr Boesak, he has unlawfully appropriated to himself monies to which he is not entitled."

Danurich Aid joined forces with Jewish and Norwegian charities to investigate the use of 27 million rands (£540,000) given the foundation. Capricious are also investigating another missing 425,000 rands given by the American singer, Paul Simon, to help fund victims of apartheid. The money was given to the Children's Trust, a charity administered by Dr Boesak's foundation.



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Passengers sue Cunard over chaotic cruises on QE2

By JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK
AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

A CLASS-ACTION claim alleges that passengers on the troubled Christmas cruises of the QE2 were exposed to health hazards ranging from asbestos dust and noxious fumes to an "exploding toilet".

The claim demands that Cunard pay a full refund and \$100,000 (£64,000) in damages to each of the 500 passengers on the cruises from Southampton and New York, and set up a \$50 million fund to cover their

possible future medical expenses. Cunard said last night that it would vigorously fight the action.

The "defendant was negligent in proceeding with the voyage while the vessel was still under renovation and, thus, subjecting the passengers to physical injury and emotional distress," said the claim filed in the New York Supreme Court.

The principal charge is that renovations to the QE2 during the voyages exposed passengers to asbestos dust and "other noxious fumes" that could cause long-term illness. The claim asks the court to "fix a fund

of \$50 million so that each passenger and/or individual plaintiff have funds for periodic annual examinations for asbestos-related or other toxic diseases on and after January 1, 2005". According to legal papers, passengers allegedly suffered from "fear of unsafe practices, including blocked passageways to the deck areas in case of a need to evacuate the vessel or to reach the deck areas in an emergency".

There were inadequate sanitary and laundry facilities, unsafe or missing doors, improper carpeting, and a lack of agreed accommodation,

water, heat and air conditioning. "Several passengers suffered other physical injuries: tripping over improper carpeting, an exploding toilet and other hazards," the claim adds.

The legal action is the result of the chaotic cruises in December during which workmen struggled to finish a £30 million refit of the QE2.

The claim was filed on a contingency basis by Christine Hall, a lawyer from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who won a cruise in a competition, and Paul Edelman, a leading maritime lawyer in New York. Miss Hall said that when the ship docked in New

York, the lavatory in her luxury cabin blew effluent on her evening dress. Eric Flounders, the Cunard spokesman, said he was not aware that any British passengers had added their names to the action. He said they had been offered a full refund, a voucher for use on another cruise this year, and spending money. "Half have agreed to these terms," he said. However, one former passenger, Peter Ludlow, a jeweller from Camberley, Surrey, said that Cunard's offer was unsatisfactory and he would consider joining the American action.

House votes to enhance President's power over spending

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved another key element of the Republicans' Contract with America, a measure that would enhance greatly the President's power by letting him cut specific items from broad congressional spending Bills without vetoing the entire legislation.

Monday night's 294-134 vote was timed to coincide with the 84th birthday of Ronald Reagan, who repeatedly demanded a "line-item veto" when he was President, and Republicans rushed from Capitol Hill to a dinner honouring their ailing hero to trumpet how they had "won one for the Gipper".

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said the Republican Congress had chosen to give the Democratic President more power because it was good for America. A line-item veto would enable presidents to reduce the budget deficit by blocking scores of unnecessary projects congressmen routinely slip into spending Bills to please constituents.

Also at the birthday dinner was Baroness Thatcher, who received a standing ovation and told Mr Gingrich: "You're doing a great job."

In addition to this legislation the House has approved Bills mandating a balanced federal budget by 2002, stopping Congress imposing costly new directives on states without proper funding, and forcing it to abide by the workplace laws it imposes on the private sector.

However, the Senate remains more sceptical of Mr

Gingrich's Contract. It has serious reservations about surrendering power to the President through the line-item veto, and may block the "balanced budget" amendment to the Constitution. In both the House and Senate there is growing opposition to another key plank of the Contract — a Bill limiting how long congressmen may serve.

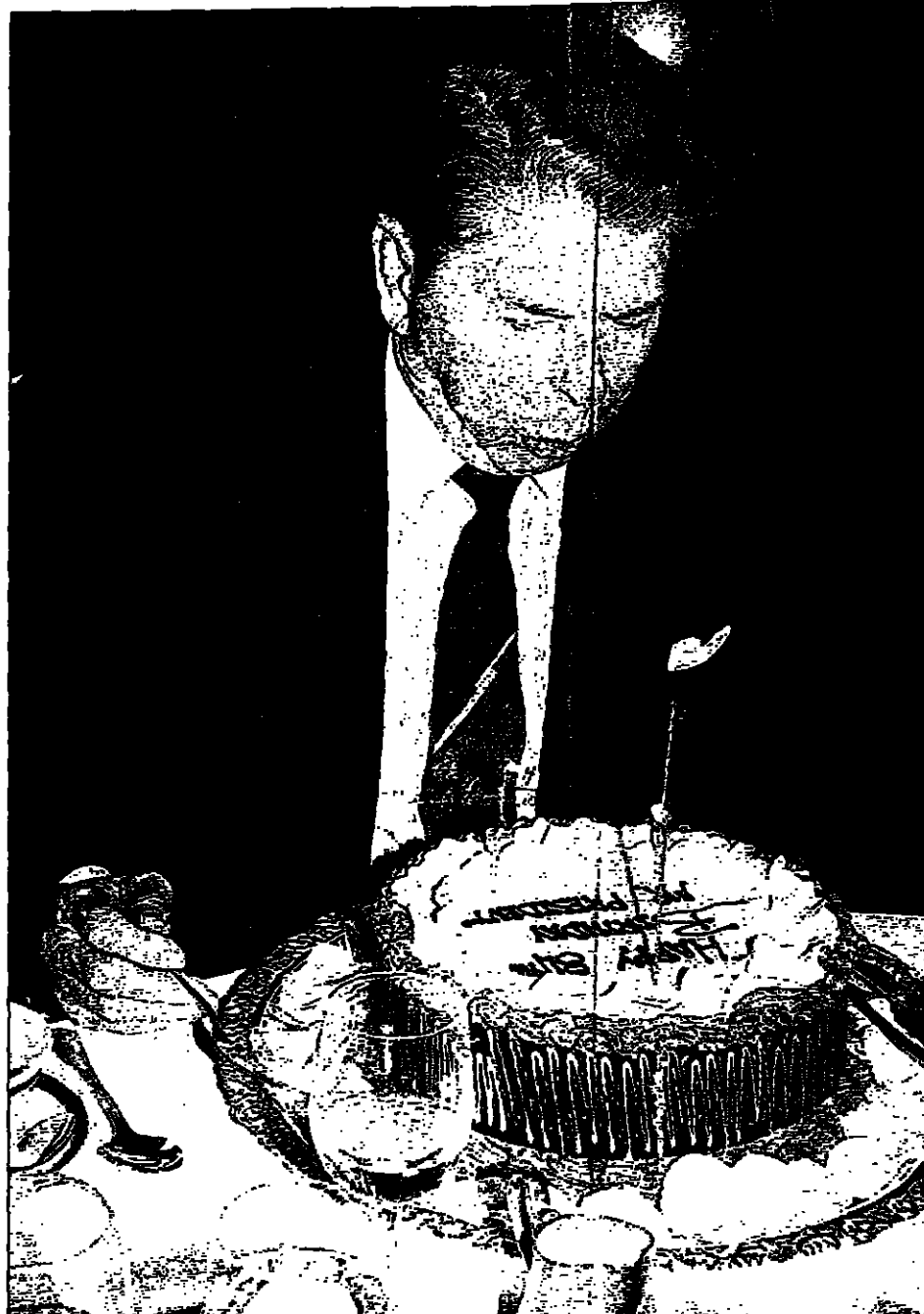
President Clinton, meanwhile, faced rapidly escalating opposition to his nomination of Henry Foster, a black Nashville doctor, as America's new Surgeon-General. Anti-abortion groups produced a transcript of remarks Dr Foster purportedly made to a government committee in 1978 in which he said that he had "done a lot of amniocenteses and therapeutic abortions, probably near 700". Dr Foster denied that he said this, but top Republicans said that his Senate confirmation was jeopardised by his earlier admission that he had performed "fewer than a dozen" abortions.

The White House insisted that Mr Clinton would stand by Dr Foster, who had broken no law and had long campaigned against teenage pregnancies. To abandon the nominee would also reinforce Mr Clinton's image as a weak leader and remind America how he earlier jettisoned Zoe Baird, Kimba Wood and Lani Guinier the moment their nominations encountered resistance.

White House officials also said yesterday that Mr Clinton had chosen General Michael Carns, who retired last

year as second-in-command of the US Air Force, to replace James Woolsey as director of the CIA. William Crowe, the Ambassador to Britain, was approached but refused.

A CNN-USA Today poll yesterday showed support for President Clinton edging up to 49 per cent after his State of the Union speech and bold rescue of the Mexican peso. Continuing ethical rows pushed disapproval of Mr Gingrich up 13 points to 48 per cent over the past two weeks, but approval of Congress reached 37 per cent, its highest since 1987.



Ronald Reagan celebrates his 84th birthday at his home in Westwood, California



Thatcher: a birthday tribute to Reagan

Rich who give up passports face tax

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has taken aim at the super-rich who evade billions of dollars in taxes by renouncing their American citizenship.

He has proposed rules that would close a tax loophole and make potential American expatriates pay a huge departure tax before moving abroad. Wealthy foreigners living in America who give up their green-card residence permits would be penalised similarly.

If Congress accepts the plan offered by Mr Clinton in his 1996 budget, those renouncing citizenship or residence will have to pay capital gains taxes on any unrealised assets in their holdings as if they had been sold. They would also find another loophole closed, preventing them from transferring assets to their children at low tax rates through trust funds.

Under present law, worldwide gains realised by Americans are subject to US tax. However, if an American gives up citizenship, the Internal Revenue Service generally does not impose taxes on

accumulated gains. That is why changing citizenship has offered a lucrative escape route.

The US Treasury says that about two dozen of the super-rich give up their American passports solely for tax purposes every year.

Among those singled out in press reports yesterday were Kenneth Dart, a billionaire investor and heir to a huge business in foam drinking cups, who has relinquished his citizenship and moved to Belize. Another departing billionaire, John Dorrance, of the Campbell soup family, has moved to Ireland. Other wealthy Americans have abandoned their citizenship for Caribbean tax havens.

The crackdown will raise an estimated \$2.2 billion (£1.4 billion) over five years, either from the departure tax or from those who decide not to go into exile and remain to pay their taxes. The proposed law would affect only the richest: the first \$600,000 in unrealised gains would be exempt from the charge.

Submarine to scour old trade route

New York: The American scientist who found the wreck of the Titanic plans to use a nuclear-powered submarine to scour the Mediterranean (James Bone writes).

Robert Ballard, who discovered the Titanic two miles beneath the Atlantic in 1985, convinced the US Navy to let him use an NRI submarine this summer to search for wrecks along the ancient trade route between Rome and Carthage. The NRI, which dives deeper than any other nuclear-powered craft, performed secret Cold War missions, including the recovery of an F4 fighter.

The 14ft submarine, with a crew of 11, has wheels that let it roll across the seabed, 77 external spotlights, and an array of powerful sonars. It can stay under water for long periods. Dr Ballard, who also discovered the wreck of the Bismarck, became interested in the Rome-Carthage sea route when he located a complete Roman ship in half a mile of water in the Mediterranean, 60 miles north of Tunis, in the late 1980s.

Ivy League women targeted for eggs

By JAMES BONE

THE parents of women at America's top universities have been shocked by the revelation that their daughters are being asked to sell their eggs through advertisements in campus newspapers.

Infertile couples seeking eggs from intelligent donors have begun placing small ads in student newspapers at Ivy League institutions such as Yale and Columbia. "Donor sought: empathetic, intelligent, healthy, attractive (preferably dark-haired Jewish) woman 21-28," read one announcement, which promised a \$2,000 (£1,266) payment and a free physical examination.

While some students may be tempted to donate their eggs to raise money for the spiralling costs of their college tuition, their parents are unhappy.

"I was absolutely astounded that my daughter, whom I went to all that hard work to produce, could become somebody whom yuppies would want to pay for her eggs," said Linda Stasi, a columnist on the New York Daily News,

whose daughter read an advertisement for a donor at Wellesley College. Hillary Clinton's alma mater.

The advertisement offered the right Caucasian women in the 21-32 age range, preferably more than 5ft 6ins tall, a free week in New York plus \$5,000 for an egg. All applicants were asked to supply a photograph.

"I understand the concept of not wanting to take a chance on an anonymous donor, but not my kid, thank you," said Stasi.

Unlike the relative simplicity of organising sperm donation, providing eggs is a complicated procedure requiring women to take potent fertility drugs for at least five days to enhance ovulation and then to undergo sedation when the eggs are removed.

But Lisa Sargent, the editor-in-chief of the Wellesley News, defended her decision to run the advertisement, saying that she saw it as a good opportunity for students who needed money and had no moral qualms about donating their eggs.

Clinton's policy on China in disarray

By MARTIN FLETCHER

US POLICY towards China appeared yesterday to be almost as much disarray as China's policy towards America.

As President Clinton urged power may have passed from the dying Deng Xiaoping to new leadership unsure how to treat America, it emerged that the White House convened a meeting on Monday to try to inject some coherence into dealings with China.

On the one hand, the Administration wants China to end unfair trading practices including the blatant piracy of American intellectual property, improve its human rights and stop selling mislabeled technology to dangerous Third-World regimes. On the other, it has been blatantly wooing Peking to ensure American business benefits from China's rapid economic expansion.

There is a sense there is not a lot of order to all this, and we have to get it together, one participant in Monday's meeting told *The New York Times*.

The lack of coherence has been illustrated this week by the Administration's threat to impose the largest sanctions in American history on 1.08-billion (£690-million) worth of Chinese goods, unlesseking agrees by February 26 to crack down on rampant copyright piracy.

Such toughness seems justified by the scale of the theft, and has broad backing from corporate America. Factories in southern China produce an estimated 75 million pirated compact discs a year and American computer programmes worth \$10.00 can be bought for \$100 in Peking. Peking swiftly offered to resume talks, suggesting it might be prepared to meet US demands, but it may equally be stalling. It could be risky for Mr Deng's potential successors to be seen accommodating America, and given the mixed signals from Washington they have good reason to question whether the Administration would follow through on its threats.

Desperate to increase trade with China, Mr Clinton last year ceased making renewal of China's preferential trade status conditional on improved human rights, and he since backed away from a promise to issue a voluntary code of practice for American companies doing business in China.

On January 1, America slashed tariffs on a range of goods from China and offered "most favoured nation" trading partners, giving Peking a windfall far outweighing the sanctions now threatened. After this month Hazel O'Leary, the Energy Secretary, visits Peking to try to persuade China to spend billions of dollars on American electric power systems.



O'Leary: has mission to boost trade with China

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British aid groups ordered to return to Phnom Penh

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE British Government has told British aid workers operating in the Cambodian countryside to return to Phnom Penh, the capital, to avoid kidnapping by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, or else their funding will be withdrawn.

The directive, by Paul Redcliffe, the British Ambassador, reflects the increasing threat from a resurgent Khmer Rouge which kidnapped and killed three young Britons in two separate incidents last year. Britain has already advised its citizens in Cambodia to avoid non-essential travel outside Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas have begun breaking up large units to form small underground teams capable of launching hit-and-run attacks throughout the country, the

Cambodian Government said yesterday. "The Khmer Rouge are separating into small groups to hide themselves in many areas of the country and wait for the order from their leaders to begin offensive campaigns," Sar Kheng, the Interior Minister, said.

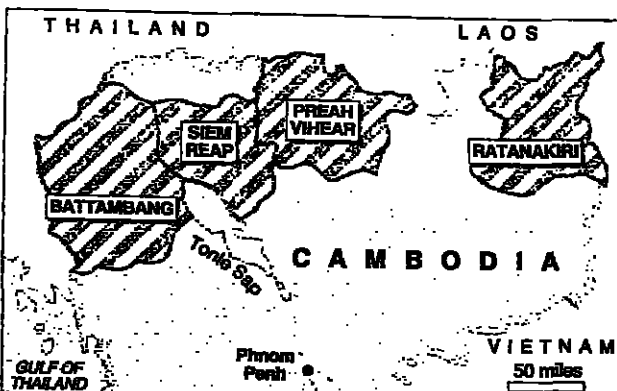
The British ruling to aid workers has prompted anger from the 14 agencies that receive funds from the Overseas Development Administration, the foreign aid arm of the Foreign Office. Heads of the affected agencies were gathering signatures for a letter to Mr Redcliffe protesting against the decision and asking for it to be withdrawn.

"You cannot make a judgement for the whole country for a three-month period on a security situation that needs

constant monitoring and upgrading," one aid worker said. "The ludicrous part of it is that it includes expatriate staff in Ratanakiri (province) who have not seen a Khmer Rouge in 20 years," she said, adding that it was the same situation in south-eastern Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces, "where the Khmer Rouge have not been seen since 1978".

Aid agencies have also written to the Overseas Development Administration saying that their field workers had developed sound security guidelines and should not be put in the same category as tourists. "We are not stupid enough to sit around like sitting ducks waiting for someone to take us," the aid worker said. "It is very much playing into the Khmer Rouge's hands if resources are withdrawn," another said.

Most foreign governments have endorsed the Cambodian authorities' strategy of promoting rural development as a means to cut the support base for the Khmer Rouge. In January, the guerrillas attacked villages and government military outposts in north-west Battambang and Siem Reap provinces, and northern Preah Vihear province, the Interior Minister's report said, adding that 25 soldiers, five police officers and 37 civilians were killed.



The Princess of Wales chats with wellwishers after visiting a centre for the elderly in a Tokyo suburb yesterday. Hundreds turned out to see her

Japanese show fresh symptoms of 'Diana fever'

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

CHEERING crowds and a crush of reporters greeted the Princess of Wales as she visited a day centre for the elderly and a Commonwealth cemetery in Japan yesterday.

Commentators had pointed on Monday to the scant interest shown by media and ordinary people in her arrival, suggesting unease about her

solo visit to Japan, where there is a strong stigma attached to divorce and scandal. However, the enthusiastic reception yesterday prompted a British embassy spokesman to remark: "All the TV stations are here — everyone's watching her, and it looks like 'Diana fever' in Japan all over again."

The Princess began the second day of her four-day visit at a centre for the elderly in the western suburbs of Tokyo.

She waved to about 600 Japanese who lined the narrow streets before exchanging her black high-heeled shoes at the entrance for slippers, a traditional custom. Sumire Sano, 92, one of the oldest at the centre, said it was "a big honour" to meet the Princess. "She really is beautiful." The scandals surrounding her estrangement from the Prince of Wales were "a personal thing, involving circumstances we don't know about". More than 1,000

wellwishers turned out in the afternoon to throng the last half mile of the tree-lined route to the Commonwealth war graves in Yokohama, about an hour's drive from Tokyo.

An evening reception at the British Embassy in the capital provided the only touch of glamour on what is essentially a sober working trip for the Princess, whose agenda is dominated by visits to the elderly, sick and disabled.

Amnesty condemns Turkey over rights

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TURKISH human rights violations are "out of control", with security forces carrying out acts of terror, torture and killings every day, according to a report issued today by Amnesty International.

This will go on, the London-based human rights group says, until the Turkish Government ends its policy of denial. Amnesty calls on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to act to prevent violations.

The report says Ankara's refusal to admit that anything is wrong has led to an increase in torture, disappearances and extra-judicial killings, which have been perpetrated with impunity by security forces throughout the country.

Villagers in provinces of southeast Turkey under a state of emergency are the most frequent victims.

"Victims of torture include not only suspected political opponents, but also those detained for ordinary criminal offences," Amnesty says. "Last December Abdullah Salman, 13, was wrongly accused of stealing a wallet at his workplace. Abdullah was held in

police custody for three days during which he was blindfolded, kicked, beaten and subjected to electric shocks."

The report says that the increased violations in Kurdish areas have been matched by the actions of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), which has carried out summary murders and killed civilians during attacks on Kurdish communities believed to support the Government.

But the abuses have continued "despite a declaration by the PKK in December 1994 that it would abide by common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions which protects civilians and prisoners".

The Amnesty report is likely to have more impact on Turkey than most because of its membership of the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe and its commitment to stop human rights abuses.

However, the Turkish Government considers that much of the report is biased, and believes that trusting declarations of "good conduct" by PKK guerrillas reveals a naivety that underlies many of Amnesty's judgments.

Satellite sabotage alleged

Hong Kong: A Peking-controlled newspaper here blamed Hughes Space and Communications, the US satellite builders, for destroying the \$160 million (€103 million) Apstar 2 satellite last month.

Ta Kung Pao said that sabotage by nations jealous of China's space programme could not be ruled out. It reported that the Hughes-built satellite blew up first, shortly after the launch, destroying China's Long March 2E rocket launch vehicle. Hughes officials declined to comment, pending the outcome of an inquiry. (Reuters)

Bordering on the unlucky

Jerusalem: The clock is ticking for a man from Gaza who claims he won a £1.2-million Israeli lottery but cannot collect because of an entry ban on Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"If he gets permission to enter Israel, he will get the prize," a lottery spokesman said. However the ticket, drawn two weeks ago, must be redeemed within six months. The ban started on January 22 after an Islamic suicide bomb killed 21 Israelis. (Reuters)

Landing near for swimmer

Paris: Guy Delage, 42, the Frenchman trying to swim alone across the Atlantic, has nearly reached the West Indian island of Barbados after 53 days. He is expected to sight land today and to reach shore either tomorrow or on Friday. Since setting out from Cape Verde he has swum for about seven hours a day. The rest of the time he has spent on board his raft where he can sleep and cook. (AFP)

Journey to freedom

Mexico City: Keiko, the killer whale who leapt to fame in the film *Free Willy* but who is living in cramped conditions at the Nuevo Reino Aventura amusement park here, will be moved to an Oregon aquarium in America next November and found a mate, before being released off Iceland. The move follows a campaign by environmentalists. (Reuters)

Just desserts

Peking: Diners who show off by ordering too many dishes at restaurants in China's southwestern city of Nanjing face fines for wastefulness if they leave food uneaten, the *China Daily* said. (Reuters)

Militants seized by PLO police

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN police in the Gaza Strip yesterday rounded up dozens of members of the radical Palestinian group that earlier had ambushed an Israeli tanker convoy. The security sweep came as peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation resumed in Cairo after a gap of nearly four weeks.

The arrests were ordered by Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, after he had learnt that the Damascus-based group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, rather than any of its main Israeli rivals carried out Monday's ambush in which Yevgeni Gromov, 32, an Israeli civilian guard, was killed and another, aged 27, was severely injured.

"We will not permit these groups to harm the Israelis, the Palestinians or the peace process," Mr Arafat declared. "We will continue, in our way, to deal with and face all these fanatic and extremist forces. We will not allow them to continue with these activities."

Mr Arafat is due to hold a crucial summit meeting tomorrow with Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, who has linked progress with the delayed 1993 peace accord to much tougher PLO security measures in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Jerusalem church repairs agreed

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

FOR the first time since 1866, much-needed repair work has begun on the great dome of the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem's Old City, revered by Christians as the site of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

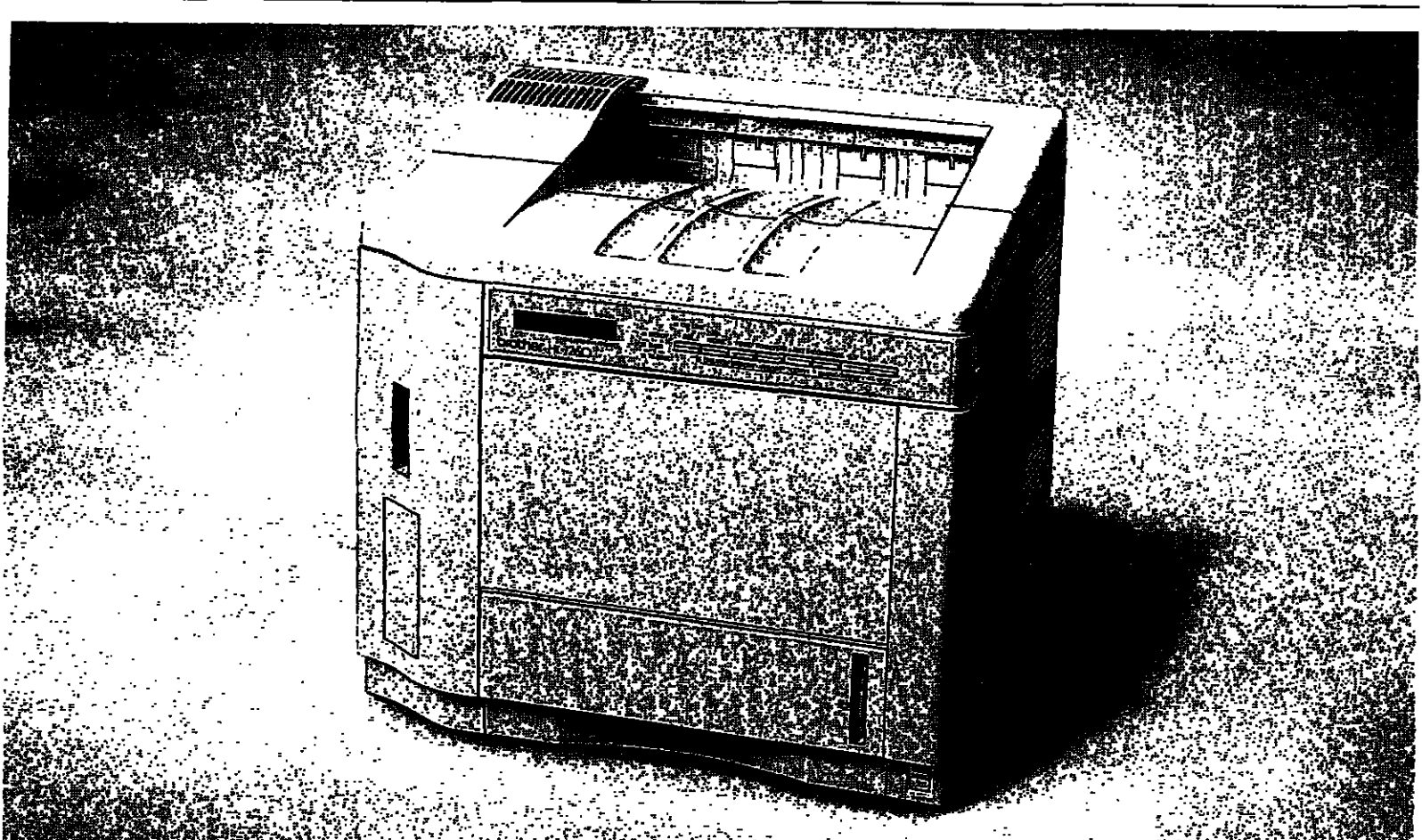
Restoration had been delayed because of decades of wrangling among the three churches that run the shrine, the Greek Orthodox, Armenians and Roman Catholic.

"The communities have reached agreement on a common design and common execution," Bishop Timothy, of the Greek Patriarchate, said yesterday. "Preparatory work is under way."

The soot-blackened, 115ft dome will remain hidden by scaffolding this Easter as it has done every year since 1935 when the British mandate authorities ignored the feuding clerics and shored up the endangered building. Bishop Timothy said that the scaffolding was expected to be removed in about two years.

Over the centuries, the churches have argued, sometimes to the point of bloodshed, over control of the holy places. In 1986, Greek and Armenian clergy came to blows in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity over who could clean a contested area.

Leading article, page 17



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Revelations about the PM and an older woman who invited him round to do his homework open a window on to a more innocent age

Uncle John's adventures in a lost world

OH, all right, I give in. For a couple of days all we right-thinking, serious-minded people refused to read about Mr Major's youthful fling with an older divorcee, did we not? We stood aloof from such intrusive and irrelevant smut. We may have split a certain amount of railway coffee when we were caught off guard by Terry Major-Ball's magnificent denial in the *Evening Standard* that his brother could ever have committed anything pre-marital. "It just isn't the sort of thing that went on my family. It isn't the way we were brought up."

But that was only because it reminded me of my own mother-in-law's magnificent condemnation of a young couple she saw kissing on a railway station. "Eh," she said witheringly. "There's never been any slop in our family." Anyway, we respectable, unintrusive folk turned the page quickly, said a quick prayer of contrition to St John of Birt to atone for our frivolity, and punished ourselves with something nice and dreary about

dental charges. These trivia about politicians' early lives mean nothing. They may or may not be true, but in any case they cannot change our view of Mr Major now. One way or the other, we all know quite well what we think of Mr Major.

Never mind that he did rather ask for it, with all those soupy party political films of him wandering through Britain explaining his roots, bootstraps etc before the last election. None of our business if he took his mail-order accountancy homework round to a friendly divorcee's front room, is it? The most we would allow ourselves was a giggle at the expense of Mr Major's various "authoritative" biographers, none of whom had an inkling of any of it. Alas, these tattered rags of respectabil-

ity are swept away now: the dam has broken, the witnesses are coming forward in waves, and the whole affair has become just too interesting for flesh and blood to ignore. Siobhan Kierans, the daughter of the older woman, has furnished the world with details which are not prurient but so piquant, so period, so wistfully perfect, that they are irresistible. That fact that Mr Major is the Prime Minister is irrelevant next to the perfection of the 1950s time-capsule we are offered. (Yes, I know it happened in the late 1960s, but the Fifties hung around a long time in Brixton. There is no record, in the domestic world unfolded before us here,



LIBBY PURVES

of anybody wearing a mini-skirt with a daisy on it or smoking anything less legal than Woodbines.)

Oh, that world! We had never had it so good, unmarried mothers were no better than they should be, and divorcees were daring people to know. On Planet Brixton 1959, male friends of the family were called "Uncle", curvy was an exotic trait, outings to crazy-golf were a novelty, and it was a loving part of courtship for the older woman to let her young friend come round and do his correspondence course at her house. These two, according to the torrent of childhood reminiscence from Siobhan in yesterday's *Daily Mail*,

listened together to *South Pacific* and Tony Bennett, went on holiday to the Norfolk Broads, and gave one another suede toy dogs, glass animals and a series of canaries (nothing as trendy, you note, as a budgie. Decent people had yellow canaries). Siobhan says that Uncle John's parting gift at the end of the romance was a subscription to the *Readers Digest*: now do you understand, do you forgive, the wave of nostalgia which has knocked the more susceptible of us 1950 babies off our feet? What a world, what an untouched idyll of glorious postwar safety and Macmillan dullness!

I am even quite prepared to accept that it was a world where brother Terry could go on believing that there was none of that slop in his family.

And, as I said, none of it need make a ha-porth of difference to the way we evaluate our Prime Minister now. Siobhan Kierans's coda to her reminiscences is that the friendship finally ended when the two had a row on the phone in 1981, about the Toxteth riots. Mrs Kierans blamed government policies. Mr Major blamed the riots. And that is the precise moment where we electors come in and may start to judge our PM. What lies before that in his life happened in a great lost world, as irrecoverable now as Assyria or Lyonesse. The curtain has lifted for a moment, now let it fall again with a sigh.

But if you really need a moral to restore your self-respect after wallowing so shamefully with me, it is this. Young men! When courting an older woman, remember the beady eyes of those small children in the background! One day they will grow up and have total recall of absolutely everything. Try not to get yourself nicknamed Rover, all right?

Hard times at boot camp

Tom Rhodes reports from Alabama, where a tough regime for young offenders seems to be working

The shrill whistle blows at 5am and for the next three hours the shouting never stops. This is the boot camp for juvenile offenders at Mobile, Alabama — a disciplined regime designed to eradicate criminality among its inmates and one which will soon act as a model for Britain.

In the sparse dormitory of steel bunks, 16 shaven-headed individuals jump from their beds and stand to immediate attention. Within seconds, they are dressed in green sweatshirts and pale trousers. One 15-year-old has been too slow with his boots. They undress and start again. This happened three times before Rodney Williams, a black former Marine and chief drill instructor, is satisfied. The atmosphere of sheer terror is tangible.

"We have got all morning," he screamed. "I don't care how long it takes. You're on my time now. Now get down and give me push-ups." The teenagers, most of whom have been convicted of theft, receiving stolen goods or small-time drug dealing, are clearly unused to this rude awakening in the gangs they normally hang out in Mobile.

One offers a questioning glance as the orders are barked with machine-gun-like precision. Tim Davis, an instructor trained by the Special Forces, moved forward to within an inch of the youngster's face. "You got a problem," he yelled. "I can't hear you, you got a problem." A loud "Sir, yessir" follows. In the neighbouring senior dormitory, Phillip, a 14-year-old, has wet his bed. Before anyone else can see what has taken place, the entire room is engaged in a strenuous workout and the sheets are swiftly changed. Vicinisation is not part of the Mobile doctrine.

After almost an hour and countless press-ups later, the



Military-style discipline: the juvenile centre at Mobile has gained a reputation as the best boot camp of its kind in the United States

recruits — the terminology at the boot camp is entirely military — are taken to a nearby gymnasium where the real exercise of the day begins. Six of them do not step forward on time and are taken into a corner for rapid supervision. Another black youngster is panting and almost in tears.

The drill instructors reach the swift conclusion that he is malingering and order an immediate burst of further physical training.

Then it is a shower, and a breakfast of eggs and grits washed down with tea, before four hours of classes conducted by local teachers. Most

schools in the area have long ago rejected these pupils but the hope is that one day they may return to their studies.

Those unable to change their ways are taken to an isolation unit for up to 24 hours. Failure to behave thereafter results in a form of psychological warfare by the instructors, who spend hours breaking the spirits of even the most hardened young offender.

While force is ruled out, the instructors are at liberty to deprive their charges of sleep and can decide when they are permitted to visit the bathroom or how long they should exercise. The code of the camp is explained very simply by Rodney Williams, who says: "If they don't give us respect, then they don't earn respect. It's a lesson for the rest of their lives."

"We want to see tears, we want young men to cry. If they can't let their emotions go, then you have a ticking timebomb on your hands."

Since such juvenile centres were launched in America four years ago, Mobile, a city port in the deep south of Alabama near its borders with Louisiana and Florida, has gained a reputation as the best boot camp of its kind in the entire country. Gary Christopherson, a Vietnam veteran who directs proceedings from a small trailer, believes that 75 per cent of the teenagers who pass through his system will have learnt not to offend again.

If Britain decides to follow this example, as was proposed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in a leaked document to *The Times* this week, Mr Christopherson is convinced it will be a success.

The British, he says, should be wary of those who say that a treatment of short, sharp shock is incapable of reducing

the rates of reoffending. "These kids feel hate, they feel fear. Most of them come from single-parent families and have never known a father figure. I must tell you I have been involved in social services for 25 years and this is the only treatment that works."

Sceptics have questioned the lasting value of 90 days of verbal abuse and calisthenics for miscreants from troubled neighbourhoods. Large numbers of adults who have been through similar camps such as Rikers Island, in New York,

'If they don't give us respect, then they don't earn respect. It's a lesson for the rest of their lives'

have often returned to the streets only to join the criminal class once more.

The juvenile camps, however, are thought to have been much more effective. With an American penal system severely under pressure, politicians see little viable alternative. Juvenile arrests have risen by 12 per cent in the past six years and prisons are already overflowing to an extent unprecedented in the history of the United States.

Last year President Clinton proposed \$172 million (£114 million) to build new boot camps for teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 as an early preventative to juvenile crime. As a result, the daily rigours of the Environment Youth Corps at Mobile will soon be extended to a further

80 young felons in a new barracks which is under construction.

After the initial three-month period, based on a model developed by the US Marines — who describe their officer trainees as Boots — the recruits at Mobile will pass out and become fully-fledged cadets. Subsequently they will undergo a period of nine months' aftercare in which specialists will liaise with parents, schools, churches and, in some cases, prospective employers. If they ever return to the camp, the cadetship will be rescinded and, it is thought, their pride dented.

For most of the inmates, the instructors become both father and mentor for many years after they leave behind the punishing schedule of PT, three-mile runs and early-morning reveille. There have been a number of notable alumni, including some who have joined the army and several who are now attending the University of Southern Alabama.

Bretland Williams, who is responsible for counselling after the recruits have left camp, says that they retain an extraordinary respect for their former drill masters, to the extent where they will try to protect them from the rougher elements of Mobile's streets.

"They will also ring me at all times of the day and night and tell me, for example, that they are with a group of car-jackers," he said. "They want me to come and rescue them."

Daryl, a 16-year-old, has returned to his school in Mobile, where teachers say his average results have greatly improved. He nevertheless walks a tightrope as other boys try to lure him back to the \$300-a-day life of a drug dealer. "I show them my books and I keep walking," he says. "I learnt that at boot camp and I will keep it with me forever."

The secret of my next success

Maurice Saatchi on his vision for a creative future in advertising

Twenty five years ago, some people placed an advertisement in *The Sunday Times*. It announced that it was "time for a new kind of advertising". Those people went on to create the best-known brand name in advertising.

The agency was Saatchi & Saatchi, and the new kind of advertising they talked about was based on a very simple idea. The idea was that advertisements which do well are those which are striking and original. In short, the simple idea for a "new kind of advertising" was that the most effective advertising is the most creative advertising.

That was 25 years ago. A lot has changed since then. Ed Arnt, the chairman of Procter and Gamble, drew attention to all this change. He shocked the advertising industry recently by saying that agencies would make themselves redundant if they did not recognise a new world ahead and if they did not change to meet it. He was right. Think of the phases advertising has been through. Phase 1: the 1950s and the search for the hard sell. A sophisticated public got bored with that. Then, Phase 2: the 1970s and 1980s and the search for novelty, entertainment. The public got bored with that. They have so much entertainment all around. In the 1990s, music videos are slicker than commercials; computer games are smarter than commercials; movies are screens ahead of commercials; and interactive television is more fun than dead television.

Nowadays it is so much easier for people to escape the joys of television advertisements than it was 25 years ago. The victims of these advertisements are no longer captive, trapped in their front room, with their average 2.5 children and their average 2.5 television channels.

What, then, will be the next phase in advertising? I believe that phase 3 will be a synthesis of phases 1 and 2. So what we need now is the hard sell of the 1950s and the creativity of the 1980s. Let us call it hard sell creativity, or the truth well told.

In constructing this new era, we can take some lessons from two distinct but related fields of activity: politics and warfare. From politics, we learn that simplicity is all — simple logic, simple arguments, simple visual images. You may say that to reduce complex political arguments to simple phrases is to insult the public, to treat them as morons. You may say that this is cheap sloganeering and that it debases the currency of public debate. I take the opposite view.

In our experience, far from being able to fool some of the people all of the time, or all of the people some of the time, it is virtually impossible to fool any of the people any of the time. In the new era you cannot serve up vague, incoherent and illogical waffle and call it advertising. Everyone is too busy. If you cannot reduce your argument to a few crisp words or phrases, there is something wrong with your argument. There was nothing

long-winded about *Liberty!* *Egalité!* *Fraternité!*

The second field to learn from is warfare. In the future, the great marketing battles will be fought not like the First World War, with each side throwing everything at the other, but like the Gulf War — with precision, ruthless efficiency, and the full armoury of technology. The kind of precision I'm describing is most difficult to achieve — and will be most important in this new era: intellectual precision, ruthless intellectual efficiency.

While manufacturing and retailing storm ahead, advertising must not be left behind in the mentality of trench warfare. So when I speak of a new kind of advertising, I want to learn from the best of political and military techniques.

To help us arrive at certain rules for the new era:

- Never accept anything except clear and distinct ideas.
- Never do with more words what can be done with fewer — the simplest statement is best.
- Aim to be "midwife to the truth" — bring rigour to the task of ferreting it out.
- Have faith that the myster-



Saatchi: creative hard sell

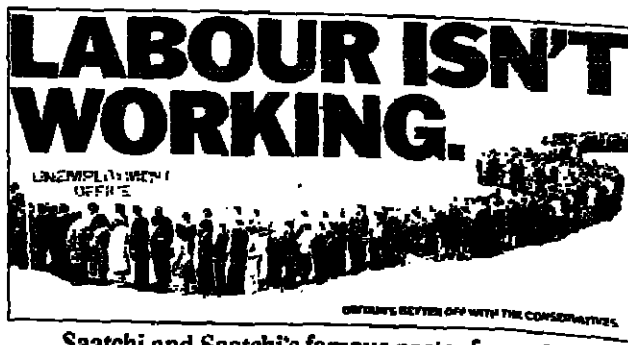
ous substance of a brand, the "thing-in-itself", is knowable — but only after "the painful necessity of thought".

And once you have found the truth, how should you tell it? The best way I can sum up how we will go about it is through the story of Sir John Fisher, who was the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty at the end of the last century. Going into the 20th century he wanted Britain's fleet to be fit for a new era. So he founded the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, and after calling a famous review of the fleet at Spithead in 1897, he reformed the Navy, commissioned new technology with torpedoes and submarines, improved the conditions of the sailors and hence their morale, and transformed the British fleet into the most formidable armed force in the world.

He had an excellent motto for how to conduct a war. In the new era, we intend to apply it on behalf of our clients with relish. It was simple: "Hit first! Hit hard! Keep on hitting!"

I can think of no finer philosophy to make us fit for the marketing wars of the 21st century.

● This is an extract from a speech to be given to the Foreign Press Association in London today.



Saatchi and Saatchi's famous poster from 1979

THE TIMES Valentine's Day



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All messages must be received no later than Saturday 11th February 1995. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement at our discretion.

The collaboration of a popular chain and a rising star of British fashion is good news for all

Designer lines on the high street



Nicholas Knightly: clean lines and understatement

Once, high-street fashion retailers watched fashion designers' every move, and merrily went away to run up something similar which was much, much cheaper — to the chagrin of the designer who loudly screamed "rip-off".

Now the two are working together, and collaborations between designers and hard-nosed retailers are changing the face of fashion on the high street. A situation which makes sense for both sides.

As the designer Nicholas Knightly explains, "The high-street companies monitor the designer shows for direction, so it's just as well to bring in a designer to design it themselves. That way people like myself benefit financially from support from a different area of industry. It's a very healthy union."

Knightly, a graduate of Ravensbourne College of Art and a rising star of the British fashion industry, produced his debut collection in October 1993, and immediately received rave reviews. In October 1994, he was approached by Paul Dass, the owner and managing director of Stirling Cooper, to design a new collection for nine stores nationwide.

When Dass took over Stirling Cooper three years ago he decided to take the company back to its roots, renewing its link with high-profile designers. In the 1960s and 1970s several designers, including Brock'n'roll designer-to-the-stars Antony Price, helped to create the original Stirling Cooper look.

Dass's first choice was the designer Bella Freud, who worked with him for more than a year producing a collection of her signature skinny knits and slick suiting. "When designers are young and

new to the industry they are tremendously ambitious, so when somebody signs them up they think they've won the lottery. They can go mad," Dass says. "Both Bella and Nicholas have been in business on their own, so they already understand the retailers' needs, and, perhaps more importantly, their own commerciality."

Knightly not only met Dass but was also taken to the Stirling Cooper stores, where he spoke to the staff and saw the customers. The resulting designs are a successful amalgam of Stirling Cooper's youthful, street-smart spirit and a sophisticated edge, provided by Knightly's love affair with clean lines and demure understatement. The collection breaks down into two main looks — a jeans line in babycord with overtones of Brigitte Bardot, and a slinkier satin story featuring mini-dresses. "It's a bit like the little sister to my collection," Knightly says.

Knightly has even used some of his original patterns for the project. "It's nice that I'm repeating some styles from my first collection, because although I only produced a handful of the originals, I've seen quite a few knock-offs. Now the actual dress has been produced for £39.99, rather than £399," Dass says. "Because we can produce hundreds of one style, when Nicholas can only make 20 or 30. His only real limitation has been the price of the fabric per metre."

The success of this association will, it is hoped, inspire more of the same, making the availability of real designer clothes with realistic price tags no longer just a dream. Which, in the end, can only be good for (the fashion) business.



NOTLINE

● TO CELEBRATE the opening of her boutique in Harvey Nichols, Caroline Charles is inviting customers to join her for a glass of champagne and to view the spring/summer collection. February 15, noon to 5pm, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London.

● Fashion shows, which are dependent on sponsorship, promote all kinds of products — including pet food. Spillers Food is to sponsor the Royal College of Art's forthcoming gala fashion show. As is traditional with sponsors, the students will design a catwalk collection influenced by the company's product and image. There is a champagne reception on May 23 (tickets, £20), and a gala banquet on May 25 (tickets, £150). Write to Margaret Manley, School of Fashion & Textiles, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU, with a cheque payable to Royal College of Art (Fashion School).

● Levi's has launched two 50 jeans commercials. One is about a cross-dresser taking a cab in 1970s New York; the other plays out the scenario between a father and his teenage daughter or son, depending on the version. Both campaigns have been branded unfit for television viewing before the 9pm watershed. "Taxi" is being screened on MTV and at the cinema; "Drugstore", the girl version, from March 31.

RACHEL COLLINS



Kaffe Fassett's Cat in a Ruff for EHRMAN TAPESTRY

This wonderful new design by Kaffe Fassett highlights two of his greatest talents: a unique skill at depicting animals in needlework and an original sense of colour and pattern. The cat's head is stitched in soft, speckled drifts of frosted white, pearl grey, ash, sepia and dappled brown while the radiating stripes behind are a combination of faded lime and rhubarb pink. The ivory collar is another example of Kaffe's clever use of shading.

Measuring 16" x 16" the design is printed in full colour on 10 holes to the inch canvas and is worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit comes complete with 100% pure new wool from the Paterna range, canvas, needle and instructions. The kit costs £37.50 which includes postage and packing. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp is needed.

FOR QUERIES ABOUT DESPATCH TELEPHONE 0932 770342. EHRMAN Kits Ltd, 14-16 Lancer Square, London W8 4EP. Registered no. 1975935. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Money back if kit returned unused within 14 days.

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CENTRE Babycord shirt, £34.99. Nicholas Knightly, for Stirling Cooper; beret, to order. Nicholas Knightly (0171-437-7964)

ABOVE RIGHT Polo shirt, £34.99, babycord trousers, £36.99. Nicholas Knightly for Stirling Cooper. Shoes, to order, as above

Photographs by ROD NISSEN-PETZER. Make-up by Cathy Lomax. Hair by James Dodds.

Grozny's fate must not be Russia's

General Dmitri Volkogonov on an unnecessary war

The democratic authorities in Russia today are weighed down by their own imperfections. The campaign by the Russian Army in Chechnya which has led to the destruction of Grozny is the worst mistake they have made in the past three years. It was always going to be tempting to use force to resolve the diplomatic deadlock, but it was a temptation that should have been resisted.

Taking advantage of Moscow's errors, Soviet General Dudayev came to power in the Chechen Republic by illegitimate means, and brought with him extreme separatist and nationalistic elements. In time, a rampantly criminal network was established in the south of Russia, which perpetrated countless kidnappings, robberies and open piracy on the highways. Such actions could not be ignored by the federal authorities, yet for three years the situation was allowed to continue, and no approaches were made by Moscow to the regime in Chechnya. Moscow felt compelled to make a belated choice. One thing was clear: it must ensure that the Russian constitution functioned throughout Chechnya, especially as almost half of the republic — the northern part — had rejected the rebellious Dudayev and created its own provisional government.

During November 1994, an emissary from Dudayev appeared in Moscow with a proposal: in exchange for Russian recognition of him as leader of Chechnya, Dudayev was prepared to recognise the Russian Federation and accept that Chechnya was part of it with the same sort of autonomous relationship enjoyed by, for example, Tatarstan. Nothing of a separatist nature was included in these terms, which would have been in the best interests of both Russia and Chechnya.

Attempts were made by some of those who had met Dudayev's emissary, myself included, to obtain an audience for him with President Yeltsin, but the President at that time was willing to talk only to the opposition to Dudayev. President Yeltsin has two advisory councils: the Security Council, which is a constitutional body, and the Analytical Council, which is made up of public figures. At the end of November, the Analytical Council discussed the Chechen question. About 20 people were present. After our three-hour discussion, we unanimously resolved to recommend that the President should proceed solely by means of negotiation. The negotiations would be long and agonising, but they were the only possible way.

We had earlier made proposals on, for instance, constitutional and economic issues, of which the President had taken note. By this time, however, he was heading our advice less and less, and the more the Chechen question came to dominate his thoughts, the more he listened to the advice of the Security Council. When it next met,

under his chairmanship, shortly afterwards, a different view prevailed, and the whole world has seen on television what that meeting decided. It is commonly said that the President was especially influenced by one particular individual or another. But this overlooks the less well-known fact that the Security Council was heavily influenced by the regional authorities of the northern Caucasus, who were tired of the excesses committed by the Chechen fighters. Indeed this may have been the decisive factor. There undoubtedly was still a chance at the beginning of December to settle the issue without bloodshed. Had the President received Dudayev's message in November, and had he and the Duma invited Dudayev to come to Moscow without preconditions, it is probable that the present position could have been averted.

The option chosen was the worst possible, and the least well thought-out, namely "bombing methods". The result, as we have all seen, has been mass slaughter of the civilian population and the decline of the Government's authority.

The issue is no longer merely about Chechnya. The Chechen syndrome has left its mark on the entire political life of Russia. The active opposition and nationalistic forces are determined not to let slip what they see as a propitious moment for the removal of President

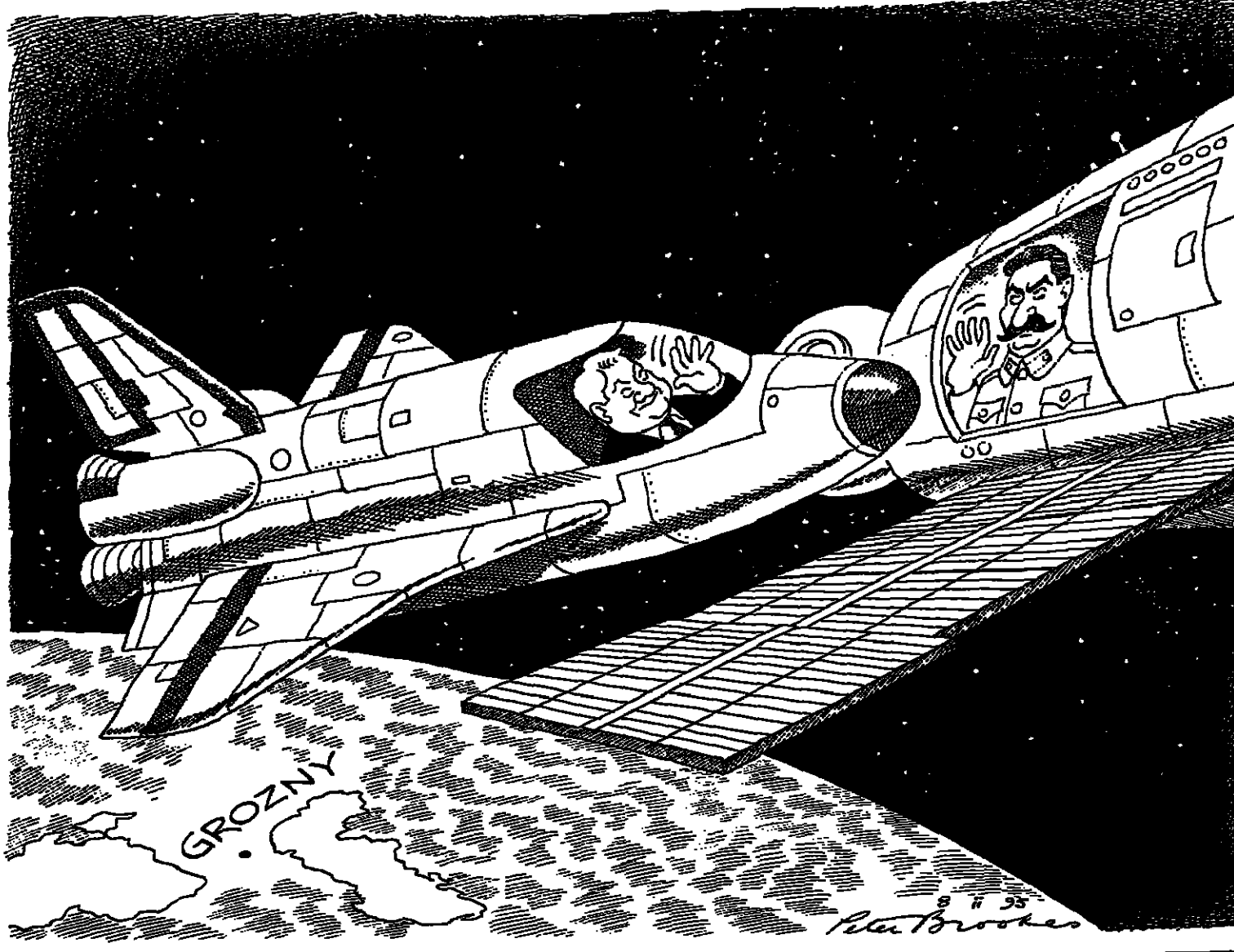
Yeltsin so as to turn back the course of reform. In effect bringing about the gradual restoration of the old order. We have seen it all before.

As a member of the President's Choice, I am in complete agreement with its leader, Yegor Gaidar, and I believe that the severe criticisms of the Government for the methods it chose to settle an ethnic conflict are just. But President Yeltsin must be helped to correct his mistake by peaceful means, while at the same time protecting the democratic Government from the attacks of the opposition. Like it or not, President Yeltsin is still the main symbol of democratic reform in Russia.

Chechnya is everybody's pain. The democratic forces will do everything possible to alleviate it at the least cost. It is important to realise that Chechnya today is only one of the epicentres of the struggle for power in Russia, where democracy is still shaky, immature and fragile.

The bitterness of the Chechen syndrome must not be allowed to conceal the contradictory nature of the situation in Russia in general: a genuine post-totalitarian order has not yet been established, although a genuinely civilised future is on the horizon.

The author, a leading Russian historian, was until last year Yeltsin's adviser on defence and is now a member of the Analytical Council. This article was translated by Harry Shukman of St Antony's College, Oxford.



The great utility scandal

Privatisations have enriched directors and ministers but enraged the public

John Major has no feel for the public's outrage at the utility options scandal. His Government is chief shareholder in Britain's two electricity generating companies, National Power and PowerGen. The bosses of these companies are believed to have accumulated shares and options worth up to £23 million, in utilities that are still 40 per cent in public ownership. The money is legally theirs. In every other sense it belongs to the public. These share options discredit privatisation. They ridicule regulation. They make a mockery of honest toil. They invite Labour to reintroduce supertaxes.

When Gordon Brown speaks of the "corporate greed" of those running the water, gas and electricity oligopolies he is speaking the liberal truth. This reaction is no criticism of the effective management of the companies concerned, or with the proper reward to risk capitalism. To all these deities we may nowadays pay obeisance. What enrages the public, the utility users and energy workers facing the sack is to see executives carrying off barrowloads of windfall loot.

This money was fixed by non-executive directors, usually in collusion with consultants. They recommend salaries in line with other firms of similar size. They do not consider the "market price" of the executive concerned, let alone put that price to the test. This is known as the buddy system, and it is rotten. As for the options windfall, it derives from the soaring price of shares that were underpriced at the time of privatisation. The rise in share price reflects an added value that should be returned to past generations of taxpayers. Some of it is now going that way through dividends to ordinary shareholders. That millions of pounds should be diverted into the bank accounts of the executives is indefensible and plain wrong.

I suppose the executives would claim they are only milking a system set up for them by the Thatcher Government. Successive Treasury ministers should have spotted the time-bomb of options when they underpriced their privatisations. Afterwards they failed to use their powers as minority or special shareholders to call the boards to account. Both John Major and Kenneth Clarke have recently declared that the options deals are "up to the shareholders". In the case of National Power and PowerGen, that includes them. They have an obligation to see

that the boards are accountable. So far, merely so indolent. Now the picture starts to darken. The Cabinet has not been wholly idle in this matter. Yesterday it sent one of its members, David Hunt, to the Nolan committee. His purpose was to squash as "outrageous" any ban on ministers going straight from office onto the boards of, for instance, privatised monopolies. He said that stricter rules might "discourage talented people from accepting office". He was supported yesterday by a withering blast to *The Times* from Lord Young, former Industry Minister.

Let us return to the utilities. Whatever the government says, these have not been truly privatised. Ownership was sold by the Thatcher Government to help to reduce taxes and free investment from Treasury control. There was little attempt to make the industries competitive or impose market disciplines. Regulators were put in to control prices and stop the companies going mad or bankrupt. In his memoirs, Lord Lawson acknowledged that the Cabinet had concentrated "too much on ownership and not enough on competition". The utilities boards claim that the rise in their share values from which they are making so much money has been due to cost-cutting, not just to the original underpricing. But the cuts have been achieved largely by sacking staff whom these same executives featherbedded when in the public sector. For the executives now to pay themselves large salaries for doing what they failed to do before privatisation is bad enough. To claim capital gains which were formerly denied to taxpayers is truly rich. Ed Wallis of PowerGen implies that he needs such incentives on top of his £350,000 pay — as Iain Vallance of BT explained last month that he needed his vast income because he worked so much harder than a junior hospital doctor. It is the sort of talk that drives salaried employees screaming into Labour's arms.

Who is accountable for these goings on? The obvious answer is the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild. He is reputedly a tough customer. He wrote in the 1980s on the need to apply competitive disciplines to privatised utilities. He warned against regulators going native. But monopoly regulators do not "go native". They are native. They are part of a framework in which the public is fast losing faith. Mr Littlechild last year told PowerGen and National Power to sell or 10 per cent, or 6,000 megawatts of their capacity to the private sector to provide competition. They have not

done so. Instead, electricity prices have risen and the option-hungry executives are able to offer new shareholders a 20 per cent rise in dividend and presumably another boost in the share price.

Mr Littlechild has threatened to refer them to the Monopolies Commission. They can laugh in his face. The same happened last year with gas. The commission recommended that British Gas be properly privatised, that is broken into competitive units. Ministers took fright and rejected this, overruled by a clever British Gas advertisement about its soaring international standing. As the 1980s showed, there is no touch quite so soft as a British government faced with a utilities monopoly. As long as ministers are timid, all the regulators in the world are paper tigers.

I am tempted to think that the Cabinet is so unwise to the ways of business that it does not see what is going on under its nose. As long as utilities are not subject to market disciplines, they are *de facto* in the public sector. Their share price is determined by the actions of legislators, regulators, commissions and ministers. That is the case with water, gas and electricity. That is why the share price of these companies should not form the basis of any options for directors, period.

As for the revolving door, the Government's complacency increases every suspicion that Mr Hunt and Lord Young are seeking to deny. Of course they are right that there needs to be more interchange between politics and business. The profession of politics is becoming ever narrower in its career base. It would be good for ministers to return to government from business. It would be equally refreshing if no Cabinet minister took office without having held some substantive job outside politics first. These are matters for the Prime Minister to correct.

What he cannot do is pretend that this goal is promoted by former ministers taking jobs with companies which they favoured in office. When a defence minister goes to an arms contractor, an energy minister to an electricity company or a transport minister to a road haulier, the public smells a rat. Ministers should find less suspect jobs. They should get on their famous bikes. As long as the rules remain lax, protests of innocence will be greeted with a wink, a nod and increasingly a jeer.

Simon Jenkins

Delegates were complaining yesterday at the National Farmers Union conference in London of the threat posed to their livelihoods by animal rights protesters. I trust they avoided the escalopes of veal offered on the conference hotel's lunchtime menu.

Blue note

WHILE Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, has been battling with school governors and local councils over teachers' pay, her predecessor has been having his own teething problems. John Patten, who left the department abruptly last year, has had difficulty deciding what to call his book, a "whither now" study of the Tory party.

Any title with Conservative or Conservatism in it was ruled out. The first working title was "Twenty Twenty Vision"; also considered were "Blue Skies", "Across the Blue Horizons", "In the Blue Garden" (a quotation from *The Great*

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Mr Littlechild has threatened to refer them to the Monopolies Commission. They can laugh in his face. The same happened last year with gas. The commission recommended that British Gas be properly privatised, that is broken into competitive units. Ministers took fright and rejected this, overruled by a clever British Gas advertisement about its soaring international standing. As the 1980s showed, there is no touch quite so soft as a British government faced with a utilities monopoly. As long as ministers are timid, all the regulators in the world are paper tigers.

I am tempted to think that the Cabinet is so unwise to the ways of business that it does not see what is going on under its nose. As long as utilities are not subject to market disciplines, they are *de facto* in the public sector. Their share price is determined by the actions of legislators, regulators, commissions and ministers. That is the case with water, gas and electricity. That is why the share price of these companies should not form the basis of any options for directors, period.

As for the revolving door, the Government's complacency increases every suspicion that Mr Hunt and Lord Young are seeking to deny. Of course they are right that there needs to be more interchange between politics and business. The profession of politics is becoming ever narrower in its career base. It would be good for ministers to return to government from business. It would be equally refreshing if no Cabinet minister took office without having held some substantive job outside politics first. These are matters for the Prime Minister to correct.

What he cannot do is pretend that this goal is promoted by former ministers taking jobs with companies which they favoured in office. When a defence minister goes to an arms contractor, an energy minister to an electricity company or a transport minister to a road haulier, the public smells a rat. Ministers should find less suspect jobs. They should get on their famous bikes. As long as the rules remain lax, protests of innocence will be greeted with a wink, a nod and increasingly a jeer.

Bliss: calling a Tory tune

Gaithy) and "As Blue as the Gendarmier's Cloak" (Edith Sitwell). Finally, just before handing over his first draft, he plumped for something lively, inspired by a march composed by that late great patriot and former Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Arthur Bliss. So it's *Things to Come: The Tories in the 21st Century*.

Alan Coren



I remember Benton: and right now it needs your support

I have the feeling that about halfway through today's little meander you are going to ask yourself why I am telling you all this, so since I am an honourable man, let me depart, just this once, from the recommended procedure as laid down in *The Big Boys Book of Column Cobbling* and reveal the pay-off now. Especially as it is literally a pay-off: I am telling you all this because I want you to send money to the Boatman's Bank in Benton, Illinois, so if you feel that there may be more pressing claims on your charity, now is the time to push back your chair and go.

To those who remain, I offer the observation that we all have our Adlestrops. We all, that is, have stopped unwontedly in some remote spot remarkable for nothing but a sudden fortuitous concatenation of affective odds and sods which subsequently made it unforgettable; and Benton, Illinois, is mine.

In the winter of 1961, I was driving from the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, to the University of Southern Illinois, in Carbondale, in pursuit of those meretricious footnotes which, bolted onto an iffy doctoral thesis, may cozen, if nothing else, the pity of examiners for a dumb jerk who spent so much on petrol. Then the snow started. When the snow starts in Illinois, one moment the first flake hits the windscreen, the next moment the only way out of the car is through the sunroof, and that is how I found myself in Benton, just 50 miles from Carbondale as the crow flies, provided the crow has a deicer.

And what was Benton? On paper, Benton was a rich little mining town, but on the retina, it was the American dream I'd dreamt ever since I opened my first comic-book. What was this street of snow-hung picket-fenced, poster-coloured frame houses but Gasoline Alley? Whose boarding-house was that if not Major Hoople's? Could those plaid-clad ear-muffled kids building a snowman by the little church be anyone but Linus and Marcia and Charlie Brown, and wasn't that Blondie backing Dagwood's station wagon down their icy drive towards a yellow fire-hydrant preparing, as ever, to meet its doom? And didn't little Clark Kent grow up here with Jonathan and Martha, after Superman père sent his only begotten son to save the world in the name of truth, justice and the American way?

I stayed two days, until the snowploughs did their stuff, and nothing broke the dream. I didn't spot Dick Tracy, mind, or Joe Palooka, but they were busy men, which may be why I didn't spot Jim Caldwell, either. He would've been down the mine.

Oh you know Jim Caldwell: the Beagle brother-in-law?

Well, okay, I didn't know him either until Monday, when Benton burst back into my life with this one-liner on the PA wire: "An appeal to save a house from demolition in Benton, Ill, has begun after it was found that George Harrison spent a fortnight there in 1963." How could this be? I rang Benton's Chamber of Commerce. I love her. She shouts: "Oh, my, London, England?" when you ring her. But she has a sorry tale to tell.

For Benton has fallen on tough times. It is no longer a rich little mining town, because they have shut its rich little mine on the grounds that its coal is too sulphurous. So Benton has to do what it can with what it has, and it does not have much more than a house which once belonged to George Harrison's sister, who was married to Mr Caldwell the miner, but has now divorced him and gone to live in Sarasota, Fla.

But soon it may not have even that, because ex-Mrs Caldwell's ex-house stands in the way of a proposed parking-lot, and if \$40,000 isn't raised, it will be flattened. If, however, it is raised, then Benton plans to truck the house to a vacant lot as a shrine. It will become Benton's Graceland, and worshippers from all over the world will flock to savour the spot where George once spent a fortnight. She had, said the C of C, tried to contact George in the hope he could lay his hands on \$40,000, but couldn't find him. So a message was put on the wire.

And since nobody else seems to have picked it up, here is the pay-off. Send every penny you have to the We Care Fund, Boatman's Bank, PO Box 910, Benton, Ill. 62812. Do it for George. Benton and the American way.

Rug from under

MOVES are afoot to remove the Royal Warrant from the Queen's carpet-maker because of a decision by Wilton Royal Carpets to close its factory in the eponymous Wiltshire town. More than 300 years after carpets were first made in Wilton, the company is moving to modern plants in Bradford, South Wales and Northern Ireland.

Wilton Town Council held an emergency meeting last night to try to have the company stripped of its Royal Warrant. "The warrant was granted to the factory to produce carpets in Wilton and shouldn't be allowed to continue if our factory here shuts," said Peter Edge, a former mayor.

The Bishop of Salisbury has also attacked the closure, which will entail the loss of about 100 jobs and was instigated by US-based Carpets International, a new parent company. "I am more particularly saddened that the name — proudly associated with Wilton over the past 300 or more years — will be lifted out of its context and used to promote carpets made elsewhere," says the Right Rev Dr David Stancliffe in a letter to the Rector of Wilton, the Rev Canon Bede Cooper. "If there is anything that I can

do to offer my support in a more practical way I hope that you will not hesitate to let me know."

Malcolm Gibson, group managing director of Carpets International, said he too was sad to see the end of production in Wilton, but that foreign competition meant more modern facilities are needed.

The Royal Warrant Holders' Association would comment only that any decision on whether to remove a Royal Warrant would be examined on its merits.



Remarkable prescience was shown at the King's School, Canterbury, some 25 years ago with regard to one of its charges. "He will go far," wrote a housemaster in the school report of Michael Foale, the Discovery astronaut who is due tomorrow to become the first Briton to walk in space.

Double move

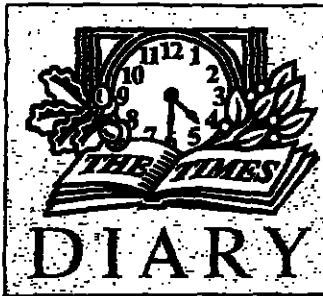
ANDREW JASPAN wrestled long and hard over whether or not to accept the job of Editor of *The Observer* yesterday afternoon. For in the morning, as Editor of *The Scotsman*, he had bought a new house in Edinburgh.

"At 9am I was at my lawyer's. We have to move out of our house on the third of March but will now have to put the new house up for sale. The timing could not have been worse."

Scrummage

THE SUCCESS of the England rugby team against the French at Twickenham on Saturday was mirrored by that of our parliamentary squad. They thrashed the French Assemblée Nationale earlier in the day by a similarly convincing 34 points to seven.

The highlight of the match,



which I am delighted to report was free of the punch-ups and sendings-off that have so marred previous encounters, was the captain. Employment Minister Phillip Oppenheim, charging the length of the pitch to score a try. Politicians fared less well in soccer yesterday, when they were on the receiving end of a 6-1 drubbing by the Press Gallery.

In his prime

SOME have been quick to scoff at stories of John Major's fling with an older woman more than 20 years ago. None more so than Bruce Anderson, Major's biographer, who was blissfully unaware of any dalliance despite the extensive research he undertook for his book on the Prime Minister. He insists he would not have

been interested anyway. "I didn't know anything about it. I have no idea what happened," he says. "I don't find it hugely interesting. I might have done if it had had a dramatic impact on his life, but he was just a young man playing the field long before he met Norma."

Delegates were complaining yesterday at the National Farmers Union conference in London of the threat posed to their livelihoods by animal rights protesters. I trust they avoided the escalopes of veal offered on the conference hotel's lunchtime menu.

Blue note

WHILE Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, has been battling with school governors and local councils over teachers' pay, her predecessor has been having his own teething problems. John Patten, who left the department abruptly last year, has had difficulty deciding what to call his book, a "whither now" study of the Tory party.

Any title with Conservative or Conservatism in it was ruled out. The first working title was "Twenty Twenty Vision"; also considered were "Blue Skies", "Across the Blue Horizons", "In the Blue Garden" (a quotation from *The Great*



Bliss: calling a Tory tune

Gaithy) and "As Blue as the Gendarmier's Cloak" (Edith Sitwell). Finally, just before handing over his first draft, he plumped for something lively, inspired by a march composed by that late great patriot and former Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Arthur Bliss. So it's *Things to Come: The Tories in the 21st Century*.

P.H.S

Business letters, page 29

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR J. S. de WET

Professor Jacobus de Wet, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, Balliol College, Oxford, 1947-71, died in hospital in Basingstoke on January 7 aged 81. He was born on July 1, 1913, in Rouxville, Orange Free State, South Africa.

JACK de WET was the doyen of mathematics tutors in Oxford. His personality was ideally suited to guiding and directing the studies of the young (in some cases the not so young); his extraordinary command of both pure and applied mathematics at the undergraduate level became legendary at the university. The range of his tutorial and lecture teaching was without equal during these years; from abstract algebra through analysis to classical applied mathematics and modern quantum theory there seemed to be no subject that was not within his grasp.

His enthusiasm for mathematics (at times he could never still in tutorials for the sheer excitement of the subject) was infectious. He inspired the able and gifted to their first-class honours, and guided and sometimes firmly directed the average to leaving the college with a qualification appropriate to their abilities. At the blackboard he was a bundle of nervous energy; some mistakes were inevitable but for most students such minor deficiencies led to a more complete understanding of both the concrete and the abstract.

Jacobus Stephanus de Wet was of Afrikaner stock. His early education was at Smithfield High School and from there he went to the University of Cape Town, which so cradled and influenced him that he returned in the last years of his professional life to give back some of what had been bestowed upon him.



At Cape Town he studied science, engineering and, above all else, mathematics; thereafter this subject was to dominate his widespread interests in both research and teaching. His quickness of mind and brilliance in mathematics led to the award in 1935 of a Rhodes Scholarship; some turn of fate directed him to Balliol College, Oxford, for which both he and the college were to be grateful as the years went by. He completed his undergraduate studies in mathematics over two years and graduated BA with first-class honours in 1937.

With that achievement behind him,

de Wet moved to the University of Cambridge for his postgraduate studies in mathematical physics. After one year at St John's College he was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship and spent 1938 to 1940 at Princeton, New Jersey, where he completed work in mathematical physics that led to the award of a PhD in 1940.

He was appointed in 1940 to a lectureship in applied mathematics at the University of Cape Town; two years later he moved north to the Transvaal to occupy, until 1946, the professorship of mathematics at the University of Pretoria. During the whole of this period he served as a technical adviser to the Royal South African Navy.

In 1946 Balliol called for his return to Oxford where he held, for one year, an ICI fellowship together with a college research fellowship. There followed, in 1947, appointment to an official fellowship and a tutorship in mathematics, a position he was to hold with distinction for the next 24 years.

In addition to his gifts as a teacher, de Wet was also an able and innovative research worker (a paper published by the Royal Society in 1950, and written jointly with F. Mandl, broke new ground in eigenvalue theory and is often quoted to this day).

He played a full and effective role in the administration of the college, and served as vice-master in his final year, 1971. Formally, the Balliol years came to an end in 1971 with the decision by de Wet and his wife Madge to return to South Africa.

He was Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Cape Town from 1971 to 1982. He was made Assistant Principal in 1975 and in the same year became a member of the council of the university as an adviser on science and industrial research.

He had many other commitments during this period in South Africa. He served the government as adviser to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1982-85. His vision for the future of both pure and applied science guided him to prepare a report on the funding of research in universities and museums and led to the creation of the Foundation for Research and Development in 1984. He also served on the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee and it was largely his hard talking that was responsible in 1976 for the first non-white South African being elected to a scholarship.

Jack and Madge de Wet returned to live in the United Kingdom in 1986 and de Wet's last years were spent in Odiham, Hampshire. Both he and his wife were committed to serving the local community, and he taught a variety of courses at the nearby institute for both young and adult education.

He maintained an abiding interest in college affairs, and in the fortunes of his large "family" of former students. During these last years the "Balliol de Wet mathematicians", all former Balliol students of de Wet, formed themselves into a college group. A number of meetings were organised for the purpose of renewing friendships, and dining well in the college hall.

On these memorable occasions de Wet's remarkable memory rarely failed him and all his former students were greeted with their first names. This group numbered about 185 and on the occasion of de Wet's 80th birthday celebration no fewer than 70 were present in the college to pay him tribute.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a stepson.

THE VERY REV PROFESSOR ROBERT CRAIG

The Very Rev Professor Robert Craig, CBE, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1986-87, died on January 30 aged 77. He was born on March 22, 1917.



WHEN the call came for Bob Craig to preside over the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1986, few can have been more surprised than the man who received it. Having spent most of his life abroad, he had attended only one previous such assembly and had been back in Scotland for less than a year. Yet he carried out his far more than ceremonial duties with great authority and warmth.

He was, in fact, one of the most distinguished of the Presbyterian divines of his day. Born in Markinch, Fife, the son of a stonemason and a linen-weaver, the young Craig early on displayed signs of intellectual precocity. After a state school education in Fife, he went on to St Andrews University and then to Union Theological Seminary, New York, where he was a student of both Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich. Ordained in 1942, he became an Army chaplain the following year, taking part in the battles in Normandy and being mentioned in despatches.

From 1945 to 1947 he served with the King's Own Scottish Borderers in what was then British mandatory Palestine—whether consciously or not thereby laying the foundations for what was later to be a part of his life's work in Jerusalem. In 1947 he left the Army and returned from Palestine to Scotland to become, first, assistant minister at St John's Kirk, Perth, and then (a formative experience) deputy leader of the Iona Community under George MacLeod.

In 1950 he began the service overseas that was to keep him away from Scotland until his retirement from the active ministry in 1985. He first became Professor of Divinity at Natal University in South Africa, moving from there to Smith College, Massachusetts, as Professor of Religion in 1958. He went back to Africa in 1963 as Professor of Theology at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland—holding various administrative appointments there (including that of acting Principal twice) until, thinking it was time to make way for an African, he moved to Jerusalem at the beginning of the 1980s.

In Jerusalem, as well as serving as the local Presbyterian minister, he became chairman both of the Ecumenical

Research Fraternity and of the international YMCA. He was appointed CBE in 1981. Since the 1960s he had been regarded with academic honours—holding, as well as his PhD from St Andrews, honorary degrees from four separate universities.

Craig and his Polish wife, Olga, whom he met in Nazareth in 1945, returned to Scotland in 1985 ostensibly to retire. Instead the next year, with all the burdens of being Moderator upon his shoulders, proved one of the busiest of his life. He brought to the role an engaging informality—never more obviously on display than when during his year of office he returned to both South Africa and Zimbabwe.

He is survived by his wife and their daughter and son.

FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI

Ferruccio Tagliavini, Italian lyric tenor, died in Reggio Emilia on January 29 aged 81. He was born in the same town on August 14, 1913.

AT THE end of the last war Ferruccio Tagliavini was reckoned by many in the opera world to be the obvious successor to Beniamino Gigli, who was almost 25 years his senior. But Gigli was not going to give up his crown easily: he went on singing until he was well into his sixties. Nor could Tagliavini, whose clear and honeyed timbre suited him ideally for the operas of Bellini and Donizetti, claim Gigli's panache when it came to Italian popular songs in recitals which filled concert halls the world over.

But the Americas spotted Tagliavini's exceptional gifts the moment opera singers were able to move freely again. Tagliavini toured South America in the 1946-47 season and appeared at the Colón in Buenos Aires. He also made his North American debut with the Chicago Lyric Opera, by way of Mexico City, in the same season as Rodolfo. *La Bohème* was the opera he regularly favoured when new ground was to be tested. His first stage role, at the Teatro Comunale in Florence in 1938, was Rodolfo and this was the part in which

he made his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera on January 10, 1947.

His appearance that night, according to the critic of *Opera News*, caused "such rejoicing as the historic house had not witnessed for years". Slight exaggeration, perhaps, but the Met immediately took Tagliavini to its collective heart. He was back there regularly until 1954 in the popular Italian repertoire, excelling as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (opposite Lily Pons) and as Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*.

London at last heard him, also as Nemorino, when the Scala company paid a visit to Covent Garden in 1950. The scale of applause for Tagliavini, and especially for his last act aria, "Una furtiva lagrima", was on the level of that opening night at the Met. But the Royal Opera was slow to secure him for its own performances, as it was with many of the leading Italian singers of the day. By the time they eventually arrived, the voice was often past its prime.

This was certainly true of Tagliavini when he came as Cavaradossi in 1955, a role he repeated the next year but the only one he ever sang with the Royal Opera. Few complained about his leading ladies, first Tebaldi and then Milanov, but it was pointed out that Tagliavini had already been



Tagliavini as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*

heard in this part with a scratch Italian company at the Stoll Theatre and he might have been persuaded to sing something else. His other London stage appearance, again with a hastily put together Italian company this

time at Drury Lane, was in Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de perles* sung in Italian and with Alicia Markova as prima ballerina.

Ferruccio Tagliavini came late to the stage. He trained first as an engineer before he decided, with his father's encouragement, to turn to opera. He won a major singing competition in 1936 and after his debut in Florence a year later appeared in a number of Italian houses before reaching La Scala in 1942 as Almaviva in Rossini's *Barbier*. He had recently married the soprano Pia Tassinari, ten years his senior. They frequently appeared on stage together, most notably perhaps in Mascagni's gentle opera *L'amico Fritz*. The composer thought well enough of the couple to record it with them a few years before his death—and perhaps he was grateful to them for helping to keep it in the repertoire. Tassinari had a substantial career of her own and was invited to the Met following her husband's success there. She died four years ago.

During and immediately after the war Tagliavini made a number of recordings, mainly on the Cetra label, which are still much admired today, especially those of the *bel canto* operas. He sang with Callas on a number of occasions and recorded *Lucia di Lammermoor* with her for EMI. He was not the most photogenic of performers—but he appeared in a number of the opera films turned out rapidly by the Italian studios for a population hungry for music.

Ferruccio Tagliavini was probably at his peak in the 1940s and early 1950s. But he began to agree to take on roles that were too heavy for him and to sing in arenas, such as Verona, that were too large. Later the refined mezzo voice was still in place, but "gear changes" became audible and he resorted sometimes to Italianate sobbs. Gigli, his old rival, used to get away with it, but with other tenors it was different.

Tagliavini's official farewell came in 1965 at the Fenice in Venice. For it he chose Werther, a role once much favoured by Tito Sclapi, a tenor with whom he had quite a lot in common. Thereafter he was tempted out of retirement from time to time.

Kenneth Matthews, author and broadcaster, died on December 28 aged 86. He was born on May 21, 1908.

A FOREIGN correspondent with the BBC for many years, Kenneth Matthews would go anywhere at any time provided there was a story. He saw service in the Balkans during the Second World War and in the Middle East afterwards, but his most dramatic assignment came during the Greek communist insurrection and subsequent civil war of the late 1940s.

Matthews, who had been covering the protracted battle, was captured by armed communist guerrillas near Corinth in October 1948 and held for a fortnight. Alarming reports of his capture in the *Times* while Matthews was being marched around the precipitous mountains of the northern Peloponnese, and given an exhausting Cook's tour of Greek communist life in the raw. He was finally set free, relatively unscathed by the experience, near Patras, and picked up by the Greek police. He turned the adventure to good account in his humorous reminiscences, *Memories of a Mountain War* (1972).

Kenneth Albert Matthews was from East Anglian farming stock, the son of a Methodist minister. He was educated at Kingswood School, Bath, and at Peterhouse, Cambridge, to which he won a scholarship in Classics. He graduated with a first in Philosophy, and had the added distinction of winning the college's reading prize in competition against the young James Mason.

Afterwards he cycled around Greece and took his first job as a housemaster at an extraordinary boarding

school on the island of Spetsai which was attempting to model itself on a combination of Eton and Harrow. Matthews tried to teach the boys cricket, without much success, an experience he told in one of his early books, *Greek Salad* (1935).

With the outbreak of war he joined the Joint Broadcasting Committee, which was absorbed in 1941 by the BBC Transcription Service to form the nucleus of the new BBC Monitoring Service. After making his first broadcast, in modern Greek, he joined the BBC's foreign news depart-



ment as a producer and editor, and was then appointed the Middle East and Balkan correspondent. He covered the Cairo and Tehran conferences, the revolutions in the Lebanon and Syria and spent three months with Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia. In one broadcast he described how he acted as a nursing orderly for Dr Lindsay Rogers, the New Zealand surgeon, while Rogers operated on the partisan wounded.

After his ordeal in Greece, Matthews was ordered back to Broadcasting House where

he was demoted to "the graveyard"—the department which prepared advance obituary notices. However, before long he re-emerged into the BBC's news team at Alexandra Palace, commenting on foreign affairs. In the early 1950s he visited Brazil, was stranded in the jungle and encountered the naked tribes of the Xingu River. This formed the subject of his book *Brazilian Interior* (1956). "He can set a scene brilliantly and his professionalism makes it quite impossible for him to write a dull paragraph," wrote an enthusiastic *Times* reviewer.

By the late 1950s, Matthews was tired of commuting from London to his lovely house, the Old Rectory in Halesworth, Suffolk, and he went to head the newly established regional news office of the BBC in Norwich. There he remained until his retirement in 1968. He continued to broadcast regularly afterwards, however, particularly on another of his great enthusiasms, chess. He gave a particularly graphic account of that titanic marathon between Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer in the world chess championship match of 1972.

Kenneth Matthews did not need the company of others for his own sake. He was quite content on his own for weeks on end, replaying games of chess, reading, writing and pottering about his garden. But in company he was charming, and he entertained his friends with delightful letters. He was an excellent writer, the author of a dozen books, and was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

His first marriage ended in divorce and his second wife, Lydia, predeceased him. They had one daughter. She survives him and is the wife of the Provost of King's College, Cambridge.

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COMPAQ
SHOWS THE WAY

The BBC Director-General may feel the need to impose a polite state on his own journalists, but he has no mandate to speak for the press

Rude? Include us out, Mr Birt

The BBC's Director-General has a curious idea of the role of the press. If John Birt has any inkling that Ireland is abroad, he gave no sign in his lecture last Friday at Trinity College, Dublin. His not-too-coded warning to BBC journalists to be less rude to their political masters was parochial to the point of discourtesy.

The BBC's Director-General spoke in general terms about the dangers of "disputatious media unbalancing" the political process. Yet this is not a problem in Ireland. Nor in the United States, where elected officials suffer far more from sticky destructive political advertising and the insults of shock-jock radio than from any Paxman-style interrogators.

No, the problem is peculiarly British, caused by the unhappiness of politicians who, holding the BBC by the throat, feel that they should be treated with more respect.

Even so, the Dublin speech was curiously muddled for a man who

likes well-engineered argument. It called the muddled present "the era of the soundbite and the tabloid". Yet tabloids are scarcely a modern ingredient in British political life.

Odd too, from one who so frequently warns against nostalgia for a non-existent golden past, to hear of a time when "politicians were exalted participants in important and largely secret processes", who "commanded an awed respect — even a degree of reverence". When was that? Certainly not in 1890-91, when the media's feeding frenzy over his divorce case ruined Charles Stewart Parnell's future, and Ireland's.

Unfortunately, the best part of Mr Birt's Dublin speech went unreported: the description of his Christian Brothers education in

Liverpool. The Brothers, he said, "succeeded — and I was a beneficiary — with a non-sensory regime of focused teaching and rote-learning. Pupils learn in a climate of fear. The slightest shortcoming... was rewarded with a stroke of the infamous strap. The only educational thrill was a weekly lesson in politeness."

Mr Birt then delivered his own lessons in politeness, applying them equally to broadcasting, which depends on government licence and regulation, and to print, which does not. He seemed not to notice the difference. Yet his strictures are inappropriate to the printed press, of which many alternative forms exist and which flourishes on partisanship and cheek. Surely he went beyond his brief in attacking a venerable Fleet



BRENDA MADDOX

Street practitioner: the "sub who composes a crass and unfair headline". A tabloid story subbed by Mr Birt presumably would read: "Man Bites Dog — A Rare Occurrence".

On Mr Birt's little list of those who exhibit attitudes "unattractive" in a journalist is "the columnist at his or her desk pontificating

arrogantly". But what is a columnist for if not to pontificate? Who wants to read Bernard Levin, Lynda Lee-Potter or Sir Sam Brittan for anything but confident, opinionated self-certainty?

But the printed press can look after itself. It has no director-general. BBC journalists, however, ought to worry about their boss's insensitivity to their art. He attacked, for instance, "the disorienting opening question" — as if this tactic, of which Sir Robin Day is a pastmaster, were not the best way to derail the approaching soundbite.

He scolded too — knowing that the public have been taught that interrupting is rude — the goading interviewer. He would have done better to praise the skill of his professionals who labour to hold

at bay someone trained to waffle on until the time runs out.

As for Jeremy Paxman, anatomy is destiny. The long face with its unusual distance between brow and lip and its asymmetrical mouth, give him a permanently askance look. But he does cram a lot into two and a half minutes.

Mr Birt should ask himself about his own part in filling the airwaves with more news programmes than anyone wants, then scolding those who fill these with speculation. Also, whether he does not perhaps exaggerate the impact of a broadcast "argy-bargy". A "feeding frenzy" of headlines may indeed follow an unintended remark, but — without real cause — a political crisis usually does not.

The most astonishing statement in the Birt speech was his claim that "journalism is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end". That is outrageous.

If you substitute "press" for "journalism", you will see how shocking it is, along with its corollary: "We need to reassert that journalism's highest purpose is to inform the citizenry."

Whoever "asserted" this "purpose"? Journalism is simply the exercise of free speech — a right, not a social tool. It has no hierarchy of purposes. Journalists do not claim, as Mr Birt maintains, to speak for "the people". They speak for themselves: one voice, which counts for no more than one. That others are free to do the same is what matters.

Yes, it is a pity that broadcasting outlets are still so scarce that politeness lessons must be imposed upon those who use them. But spare the rod from the rest who do not work under threat of having a licence removed.

John Willis, Channel 4 programmes director, questions the fairness of C4's huge annual subsidy to ITV

What couldn't we do with £57 million?

Television is obsessed with fantasy. On Channel 4, fantasy politics is played on *The Number 10 Show* and weekly BBC2 celebrates *Fantasy Football*. Part of my job as Channel 4's Director of Programmes is to fantasise, thanks to the £57 million-plus which, as will be announced tomorrow, we will pay ITV as part of the labyrinthine funding formula devised in the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

The formula requires Channel 4 to pay ITV 50 per cent of any revenue it earns over and above 14 per cent of the UK's total terrestrial television advertising income. It was supposedly designed as a "safety net" to protect Channel 4's minority-programming remit. In fact it has produced a windfall for ITV shareholders.

Last year, Channel 4 handed over £38 million to ITV: this year's figure is about £57 million.

I dream of the richness, the diversity, the innovation which that could bring to our viewers. The figure is exactly a quarter of our total programme budget — three months of Channel 4's entire schedule.

Instantly, we could follow the success of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Shallow Grave*, doubling our film on Four production. That would mean 12 more British movies.

Fiction is one of the defining characteristics of any broadcaster's schedule. Currently, ITV and BBC can afford to spend about as much on its drama as Channel 4's entire annual programme budget. With the missing millions we could double our present limited number of further new series each year such as *Jimmy McGovern's Hearts and Minds*, which starts next week.

The best guarantee of Channel 4's long-term future as a broadcaster with a public-service ethos is to fund adequately a high level of indigenous British production.

Commissioning British work will increasingly mark out the four terrestrial channels from the burgeoning cable and satellite channels who are inevitably dependent

on repeats and American purchases. Last year, Channel 4's Top Ten was not awash with US series. It included *The Remains of the Day*, *Brookside*, *Jo Brand*, *Countdown* and, at the top, *Cutting Edge*, the documentary series. More such British series would keep Channel 4 at its current buoyant audience level. Besides doubling our fiction, we could add five low-budget movies, including a multicultural film of the quality of *Bandit Queen* plus a long-running teenage drama, three new arts series and four additional top arts and culture events such as *Glyndebourne* and *Glastonbury*. Then we could add five new education series and more religion, schools series and disability programming.

My fantasy extends to important developments in two areas of growing significance, series that reflect multi-cultural Britain and more science for young viewers.

Our daytime output badly needs investment to replace black and white films and American purchases. I then dream on to five further series, such as *Moviewatch*, or *Wise Up* for children and young people. We could

add to our very successful documentary and current-affairs output with seven new series with the quality of *Beyond the Clouds*. That's not forgetting late-night discussion, Christmas animation follow-ups to *The Snowman* and *Screaming Reels* and other sports series. We would still have ample to enhance our commitment to experimentation and, crucially, to develop more work created outside London.

Before I stop dreaming, I would put extra millions into the vital area of comedy in the rich tradition of *Rory Bremner — Who Else?* and *Drop the Dead Donkey*.

Of course, this exciting fantasy was rudely interrupted by a letter from Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, rejecting any immediate change, consigning us to paying ITV at least another £50 million next year. That means we will have given away about £150 million in three years, and the chance of a



Drop the Dead Donkey: its success could be off-repeated — if Channel 4 kept the extra millions

richer service to viewers and hugely increased opportunities for Britain's large band of independent producers — millions, all diverted to ITV shareholders.

Moreover, contrary to its intention, the funding formula drastically reduces the money we can invest in developing our programme service. Imagine if Virgin Atlantic subsidised British Airways or the Royal Court Theatre paid millions to Andrew Lloyd Webber or Newcastle gave Manchester United the equivalent of Andy Cole, Peter Beardsley and Robert Lee, then had to play against them every week.

Channel 4 is a winner. A small broadcaster commercially successful by sticking to its remit to be different and one whose work is shown to great delight all over the world. Overseas broadcasters trying to discover the magic secret find the funding formula absolutely baffling. As one said: "This is so British, to try to stop you as soon as you're successful. Does the Government want you to buy more American programmes rather than to produce your own. I think, as you say, this isn't cricket."

If it's not cricket it's hardball. In Channel 4's hands, that £57 million could fund more than 400 additional hours of high-quality British production. More jobs, more exports, better quality, wider choice. Perhaps before we have to start yet more re-runs of *I Love Lucy*. Stephen Dorrell will put the viewer first. Then I can turn my fantasy into reality.

HOW CHANNEL 4 COULD HAVE SPENT £57m

The following is an indicative schedule of the additional volume and range of new British programmes which Channel 4 could have provided to UK viewers in 1994 if it had not had to subsidise ITV.

Programmes	Hours	Total £m
Drama		
1 Drama series (eg <i>Reactor's Wife</i> , <i>GBH</i>)	15	10.5
2 Film on Four	20	10.0
1 Teenage drama series	75	6.0
1 Multi-cultural film (eg <i>Bandit Queen</i> , <i>Salaam Bombay!</i>)	2	1.0
3 Low budget films	3	1.0
1 New film-makers scheme	2	0.5
Additional Drama	117	29.0
Factual		
4 Documentary series (eg <i>Beyond the Clouds</i>)	20	2.5
5 Education series (eg <i>Time Team</i> , <i>Food File</i>)	21	2.5
3 Current affairs specials/miniseries (eg <i>Power & The People</i> , <i>Falklands War</i>)	12	2.0
2 Schools series	10	1.0
2 Experimental series	12	1.0
2 Religious series (eg <i>Witness</i>)	10	1.0
1 Early evening science series	4	0.5
3 Science specials	3	0.5
1 Youth documentary series (eg <i>Moss Side</i>)	5	0.5
1 Disability strand	5	0.5
Additional Factual	111	13.0
Arts & Entertainment		
1 Multi-cultural arts series	12	1.0
1 Late night discussion series (eg <i>After Dark</i>)	20	1.0
4 Children's/Youth series (eg <i>Wise Up</i> , <i>Eurotrash</i>)	27	2.0
3 Comedy series (eg <i>Drop the Dead Donkey</i>)	18	3.0
2 Arts series (eg <i>For Love or Money</i>)	12	1.0
4 Arts events (eg <i>Glyndebourne</i> , <i>Royal Ballet</i>)	6	2.0
1 Christmas animation (eg <i>The Snowman</i>)	1	0.7
4 Daytime series	110	3.8
2 Youth sport/activity series	7	0.5
Additional Arts & Entertainment	213	15.0
Total additional production	441	57.0

A great many words in your ear

What sort of programmes can we expect from the new Talk Radio?

AN INVENTIVE radio station in Los Angeles used to run a competition called *Name That Food!* in which a presenter would read out the ingredients listed on an unnamed food packet and invite the audience to guess what the product was. The resulting telephone calls from listeners — broadcast live — were often surprising, and nearly always amusing, as callers frequently failed even to distinguish a bun from the hot dog that went inside it.

If you ever imagined that such things could never happen in the UK, think again. Next week sees the launch of Talk Radio, the nation's first national commercial speech-based station. While *Name That Food!* is not on the station's programme list, it would not look out of place.

Promising to fill 40 to 50 per cent of its airtime with phone-

stone by Radio 4 for decades. The youngest, essentially middle-brow, demographic sector that the station is targeting is crying out for an alternative to the BBC and to the 150-plus music stations now crowding the nation's airwaves, he says.

"Talk Radio will be a sounding board for national opinion, which politicians will have to listen to for an assessment of the popular mood," he adds.

Media analysts, such as Lucy Broke of James Capel, are concerned that Talk Radio's £3.8 million annual cash bid, the 4 per cent, qualifying advertising revenue levy it must pay to the Treasury and the £350,000 licence fee it has to hand over to the Radio Authority every year, look high for a radio station.

John Aumonier, managing director of Talk Radio, says, however, that after investing £1.5 million in equipping its transmitter, the station will have one of the most cost-effective transmission systems in the UK. Transmission costs, initially estimated at about £2 million a year, have been halved, he says.

Although cautious about its prospects, Ms Broke believes that Talk Radio



Sir David Nicholas: politicians will listen in

ballast on this frothy and seemingly lightweight vessel comes in the form of Sir David Nicholas, the former chief executive of Independent Television News, now chairman of Talk Radio.

Although the station has been hyped as the home of "shock jocks" (an American term used to describe rude and abrasive talk show hosts), Sir David believes that British audiences will want something more intelligent than that.

"The heckler in the crowd at Speaker's Corner or the raspberry-blower at the back of an audience — these things are typically British. But audiences here will not put up with the kind of rudeness you find with American shock jocks," he says.

Sir David, 65, believes that Talk Radio will redefine the conventions of non-music radio that have been virtually set in

could not have picked a more auspicious time to launch. Commercial radio's advertising revenue rose 23 per cent in 1994 to £219.4 million. The sector now accounts for more than 4 per cent of national advertising revenue (against 2 per cent three years ago) and it added 1.5 million new listeners last year.

THE STATION has already attracted a handful of premium brand advertisers, such as the House of Fraser, but Steve Hyde, broadcast director at the media buyer Zenith Media, believes that one of its strengths is likely to lie in the area of programme sponsorships. "With such a flexible format, its potential for creating vehicles for sponsorship should be greater than other stations," he says.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

Top travellers go BBC1

THOUGH it ranks in 19th position on our television ratings table, *Holiday*, BBC1's long-running travel programme, has proportionately more viewers in the ABC1 socio-economic groups* than any other show in the chart.

Alexandra Frean writes.

More than 48.3 per cent of its audience are ABC1s, compared with 44.7 per cent for the viewing population at large.

The programme, launched in 1969, spawned a number of imitations, including Thames Television's *Wish You Were Here* in 1976 and BBC2's *The Travel Show* in 1988 and BBC1's

own *Summer Holiday* in 1994. *Holiday* was originally presented by Cliff Michelmore, who brought to the series a background in current affairs. At its peak in 1991, it attracted 15.4 million viewers.

The only other programmes in the chart with more than 44.7 per cent of ABC1s are *Pie in the Sky*, the BBC1 detective drama, and the Sunday evening news, also on BBC1.

* A = upper management and senior professional workers, B = middle management and junior professional, C1 = clerical supervisory.

TIMES TV TOP TWENTY: ABC1s

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre	Aud (B)	Aud (A)
1 A Touch of Frost	Sun 22	20.32	ITV	Yorkshire	Drama series	18.2	7.1
2 Casualty	Sat 21	20.06	BBC1	BBC	Drama series	15.5	7.0
3 Coronation Street	Mon 19	19.32	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	15.3	6.9
4 EastEnders	Sat 21	19.32	BBC1	BBC	Soap	14.8	6.1
5 The National Lottery Live	Sun 22	19.50	ITV	Carlton Television	Drama series	14.0	6.1
6 Newsnight	Sun 22	20.30	BBC1	LWT	News	13.7	5.1
7 Antiques Roadshow	Sat 21	18.14	ITV	Worldwide Int'l TV	Drama	13.0	5.0
8 International Gladiators	Sun 22	21.01	BBC1	LWT	Drama	12.8	5.0
9 The Glass Virgin	Sun 22	19.29	BBC1	Wizend Productions	Entertainment	12.5	4.9
10 Pie in the Sky	Sat 21	19.16	BBC1	BBC	Sci-fic	11.9	4.8
11 Sled Date	Sun 22	21.07	BBC1	BBC News	News	11.5	4.7
12 One Foot in the Grave	Sun 22	18.05	BBC1	Scottish Television	Drama series	11.7	4.7
13 News and Weather	Wed 18	21.01	BBC1	BBC News	News	12.9	4.7
14 Taggart	Sat 21	20.01	ITV	Thames Television	Drama Serial	11.7	4.6
15 News, Sport and Weather	Fri 20	20.01	ITV	BBC	Entertainment	11.7	4.6
16 The Bill	Sat 21	18.50	BBC1	BBC	Sci-fic	10.8	4.6
17 Noel's House Party	Sun 22	18.39	BBC1	BBC	Lifestyle	9.1	4.4
18 Last Of The Summer Wine	Tue 17	19.00	BBC1	20th Century Fox	Film	11.7	4.4
19 Holiday	Mon 19	21.00	ITV				
20 The Hand							

BARS (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) David Graham & Associates 0825-322829
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Britons eat tons of the instant snacks — why then are manufacturers having a hard time?

Soggy state of the potato-crisp market

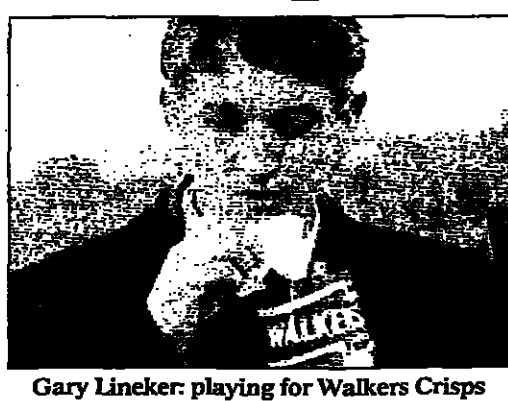
The potato crisp may be a humble product. But big money is being made and lost on it. Last Friday, Dalgety, the owner of Golden Wonder, announced it was to sell its snack-food business. On the same day, Bensons Crisps' share price collapsed by a third after it announced annual losses and a refinancing package. In the past few months, Bensons, Golden Wonder and KP, which owns crisp brands such as McCoy's, Roysters and Frisps, have announced factory closures.

All of them have found their margins crumbling in the wake of a cut-throat price war that has left their profit margins decidedly soggy. The price war that started 15 months ago led Sainsbury, Safeway, Tesco and other grocery chains to reduce a six-pack of crisps from 85p to 59p. Some makers offer brands at 33p a six-pack, and some discounters respond by lowering their prices to as little as 28p a six-pack.

Malcolm Jones, managing director of Bensons, says: "The world really is turning upside down when the standard price of a single bag of crisps is 21p and a six-pack 28p."

about this particular tale of marketing woe. Demand for crisps is huge. Every day, Britons guzzle almost 10 million bags of them, creating a £900 million-a-year market. And it is growing. Nielsen, a market-research firm, found that we crunched our way through 12 per cent more of them last year. And it is not own-label or "price-fighter" brands that have been gaining the greatest market share — by far the most successful brand last year was Walkers, the market leader.

According to Peter Thompson, president of Walkers Snack Foods, the PepsiCo-owned company noticed that before the price war broke out UK consumers were paying far more for their snacks than



Gary Lineker: playing for Walkers Crisps

their American counterparts. This, Walkers decided, was killing the market's growth. The UK industry, says Mr Thompson, had "shot itself in the foot with price increases". Walkers' response has been to "return value to the category".

Over the past two years, Walkers has undertaken an obsessively detailed overhaul of its quality, fine tuning everything from how potatoes

are stored and cut to exact frying times and oil to weight ratios. It has also repackaged its crisps in foil to keep them fresher, as well as running sales promotions and creating new distribution channels and variants such as Walkers Double Crunch.

Crucially, rather than using improved quality as an excuse to raise prices, it has frozen them.

The strategy seems to be working. Last year, Walkers' sales leapt 17 per cent, pushing its total market share up by 7 per cent to 43 per cent — not bad for a brand with supermarket sales alone of £170 million. Not content with that, already this year the brand has been relaunched with new packaging, "new, improved"

flavourings, plus television commercials that cast Gary Lineker, the squeaky-clean footballer, against type, to create what its advertising agency calls "a distinct advertising personality".

Indeed, the PepsiCo company is now so bullish that it plans to pull a flanker on Coca-Cola, its arch rival. Walkers is already Britain's biggest food brand, but its new goal, Walkers' staff were told earlier this year, is nothing less than to topple Coca-Cola from its pedestal as Britain's number one brand.

The stark contrast between Walkers' fortunes and those of its rivals is not being lost on marketers. Too many British companies, says John Wakely, a Lehman Brothers analyst, have adopted niche-marketing strategies and "British pricing policies". They have pushed up prices, only to find sales volumes falling. Then they have responded to falling volumes by pushing up prices. In a desperate attempt to keep production lines busy, they have taken on more and more own-label supply contracts at marginal costs. They have ended up with the worst of both worlds.

ALAN MITCHELL

Up-to-date kit for the sporting set



● Throw out your old leotard! New in the shops this month is the Elite Unitard, a sleek all-in-one exercise outfit made of 55 per cent cotton, 35 per cent polyester and 10 per cent elastane. It comes in two colourways — black with china print and midnight navy with china print — in sizes small (10-12), medium (12-14) and large (14-16), and costs £29.99 from JD Sports, 145 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-287 5502) and good sports shops nationwide.

● Boots' new Body Workout range, in its sleek aluminium-coloured packaging, uses natural ingredients which have not been tested on animals. It includes grapefruit Hair and Body Wash, £2.45; menthol and peppermint Cooling Shower gel, £2.45; Sunburst Melon Cooling Dew, £2.25; lavender and rosemary Mineral Bath Soak, £3.25; mint and jojoba Liquid Talc, £2.65; mint and jojoba Double Protection Anti-perspirant Deodorant, £2.29. There is also a Watermint and Loofah Body Buffer, £2.59, which polishes away dead skin cells and fights cellulite. Available at most Boots stores.

● Reebok's latest high-tech shoe is for women who take aerobics seriously. The In-structor Graphite Mid Hytel HXL, £69.99, is available in sizes 3-9 in white/burgundy/black or black/silver/orange and features a moulded mid-sole with special arch support for stability, cushioning and durability. Stockist details: 01494 816666.

● Anyone looking for a practical sports bag will find the Lockerbag meets most needs. There's plenty of space inside to stash gear, with a separate shoe compartment and handy pocket for toiletries. A

Nicole Swengley shapes up with the season's new range of toning and trimming accessories

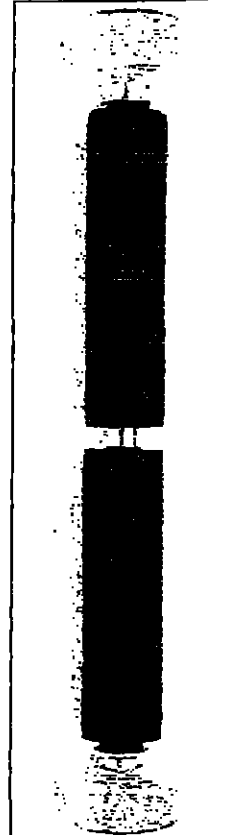
large outside pocket takes wet or dirty kit and there's a racket side-pocket and two further exterior pockets. It measures 45cm x 25cm x 36cm, will fit under aircraft seats and costs £29.95 including p&p from Lockerbag UK Ltd, Chester Enterprise Centre, Hoole Bridge, Chester CH2 3NE (01244 682340 answering machine).

● User-friendly dumb-bells are an incentive to step up the action. This foam-covered pair, each weighing 1½lb, are among the most attractive I've come across for working out at home or in the gym. They cost £5.90 per pair including p&p (ref AX-SW-3) from Newlit & Co Ltd, Claxton Hall, Malton Road, York YO6 7RE (01904 468551).

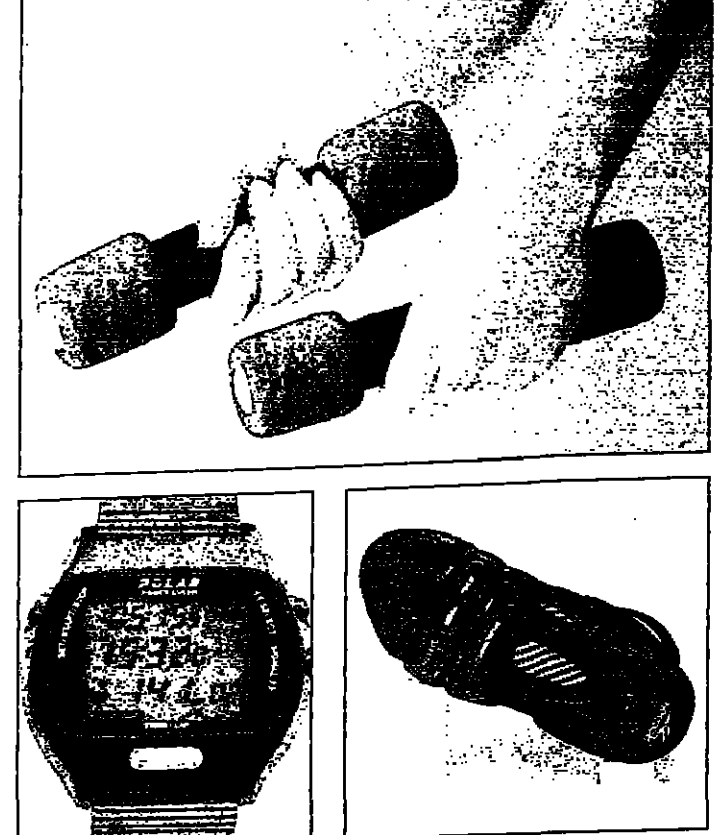
● Polar's new Protrainer Heart Rate Monitor, £149.99, can be used for a broad

spectrum of sports including aerobics, running, cycling and walking. It gives target zone performance feedback (ie time spent within, above or below the desired goal) and has a high/low alarm. Its transmitter belt can be worn around the chest with the receiver unit on the wrist or it can be used without the transmitter belt as a stopwatch with a stopwatch facility and calendar information. From Intersport, John Lewis, Lillywhites, Olympus or from Bodycare Products Ltd (01926 50935).

● Top sporting names such as Martina Navratilova and Tom Kite endorse the PowerStik, a device for building and rehabilitating wrist and forearm muscles. It helps develop strength and flexibility and is particularly useful for anyone with tennis or golf elbow. Its small shaft has weights on the ends that adjust the tension of the padded handgrips. You simply grab the pads, hold the PowerStik vertically or horizontally and twist against the resistance of the grips. It costs £29.95 from Lillywhites, Harrods or by mail order (please add £3.95 p&p) from RDI, Unit D12, The Seedbed Centre, Langston Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 3TQ (0181-532 1532).



Left, PowerStik; top, dumb-bells; above, Polar heart monitor; right, Reebok shoe



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and an adjustable bridge-piece, £16.40 plus 95p p&p from Swim Shop, 52-58 Albert Road, Luton, Beds LU1 3PR (01582 416545).

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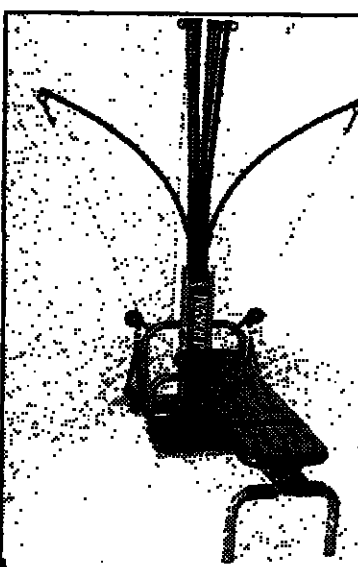
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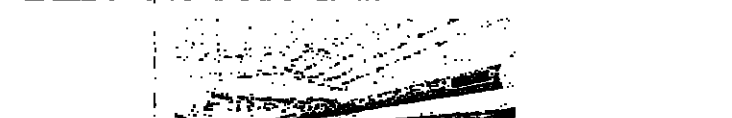
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Executive stress and winter blues are pummelled away at The Oriental Hotel's new Spa in Bangkok. Nicole Swengley takes to the Thai treatment

Soothing rhythms to banish the blues

Bangkok is a very long way to go for a massage. Six thousand miles, in fact. But, desperate to throw off winter blues, I flew to Thailand for a three-day pampering at The Oriental Hotel's new Spa.

Friends thought I was mad. Massage in Bangkok? Nudge nudge, wink, wink. No, I protested. A reputable massage. At a fabled hotel. Truth to tell, I arrived in Bangkok at 6.15am feeling dreadful. An hour's taxi ride through polluting traffic jams didn't help, although my attractive split-level room at The Oriental did much to restore my equilibrium. Best of all was the panoramic view of the Chao Phraya River, chaotic with working barges and longtail tourist boats.

Flagging in the 28C heat, I took the hotel's private ferry to The Oriental Spa on the opposite riverbank. Full-size topiary trees, bougainvillea and a water-lily pond greeted me. I discarded my shoes and padded into the cool interior on smooth teak floors.

I was ushered into a private room — there are no public spaces — with teak walls and floors. A futon lay on a teak platform and it

was here that "Angel Hands" gave me an hour's jet-lag massage, pummelling stiff shoulders and restoring circulation to my legs. Traditional Thai music twanged peacefully. I fell asleep.

A brand-new treatment — alpha-massage — had me clambering into a space-age computerised capsule which gently vibrated, glowed, played New Age music and told me how many calories I was burning.

Angel Hands gave me an hour's jet-lag massage. Thai music twanged peacefully. I fell asleep

just by lying there. Very satisfactory. Then Angel Hands led me into the stone hydrotherapy room with its pebble-wall decorations. Here she rubbed me with gritty pale-green cream and blitzed me with a high-powered hose. Finally I sank into a whirlpool bath and sipped jasmine tea.

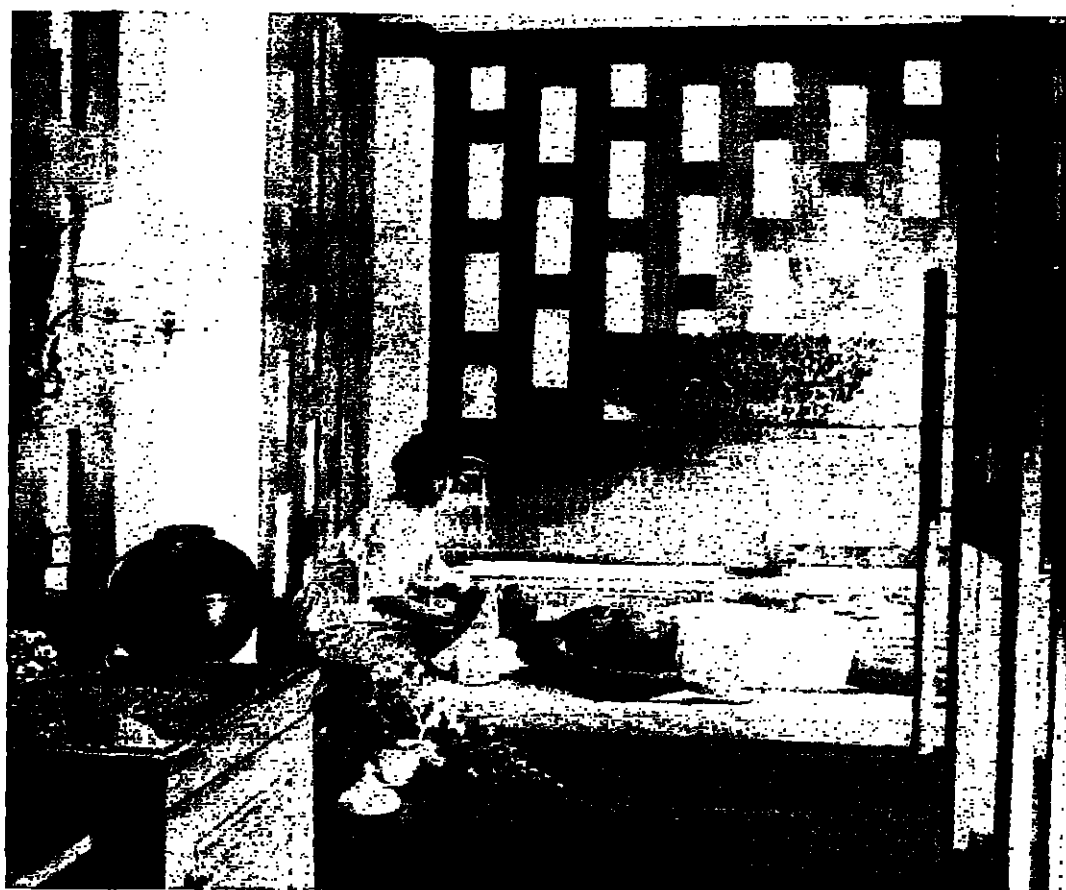
The combination of treatments left me feeling as fresh as if I'd slept

all night. Physical and mental fatigue vanished in this two and a half hour serious destressing stint. "Is this a miracle?" I asked Kurt Wachveit, The Oriental's general manager for 29 years. "It's a total release of tension — people often cry," he said.

Basically his idea, the Spa crystallised in the face of competition from other hotels. "I wanted to make The Oriental a bastion of good living, a place where people can be pampered. Countries like Cambodia and Burma, now opening up to tourists, have lots of culture but little luxury. We can offer treats for body, mind and spirit at the start and finish of your travels."

So how does The Oriental Spa differ from Champneys or Baden-Baden? "It's not a medical spa, but it does focus on total well-being. It's the Thai culture, Thai people and their attitude to service which makes it so special," explains Mr Wachveit.

The mental side of relaxation is as important as the physical, so meditation classes are held in a special room, and yoga, stress management and behavioural modification are available. "It's a



The new Spa: its destressing techniques have been known to make people cry

combination that works," says Mr Wachveit. "People come for a single jet-lag massage, a half-day, a three-day package or a week."

With characteristic attention to detail, he confides: "We did feel guilty about the teak so we planted more than 5,000 trees to replace the ones we felled."

Rejuvenation ranges from European skincare, aromatherapy, mud and seaweed body wraps, to Thai herbal treatments using plants grown specially for the Spa. I particularly enjoyed the papaya

body polish during which I was smothered with fruity liquid, wrapped in a polythene sheet and left to marinate for 30 minutes. Oriental massage — during which you wear loose cotton shorts and a shirt supplied by the Spa — was another indulgence. Kneaded with the elbows, feet and wrists of a Thai masseuse, my body achieved almost yogic flexibility after one hour.

The Spa may be a reflection of Nineties concerns, but The Oriental's nostalgic fame as a writer's retreat lives on. Ghosts of Somerset Maugham, Joseph Conrad and Noel Coward stalk the Authors' Lounge, where afternoon tea is served, and there is even a Jeffrey Archer library.

Lunching on crab and papaya at the riverside Verandah restaurant — it is one of five at the hotel — or dining on Thai cuisine at the Sala Rim Naam restaurant next to the Spa, is a delicious experience. One to five-day Thai cookery courses are held at the Spa for anyone wishing to re-create recipes when they get back home.

So how did I feel after the overnight flight back to London? Tired, but certainly less stressed. And I felt I'd been away far longer than three days. It's a magic medicine, this Bangkok massage...

● The Oriental Spa offers a number of packages starting from £824 for an Executive Rescue Pack including two nights accommodation and breakfast, lunch, dinner daily plus eight treatments (flights extra). Details: Mandarin Oriental (0800 962667). Return flights to Bangkok on Thai Airways International from £589 (0171-499 9113).

Gentle steps to fitness after forty

It is never too late to get fit, but do not leap into your Lycra — take the softly, softly approach, says Ros Drinkwater

When 83-year-old Lady Hulise awoke recently to find her bedroom ablaze, she did not delay. She knotted her sheets, shinned 20 feet down to safety and persuaded her 85-year-old husband to do likewise. Few can expect to have their agility tested so late in life. But if we did, would we be up to it?

For most, fortysomething is when alarm bells start ringing, stiffness and breathlessness being common complaints. We resolve to do something about it, but what? At 44, with a lifestyle "too busy for exercise", the top hair-stylist Heinz Schumi found a solution with the fast version of roller skates, roller blades.

"As a child in Austria I skated and skied, so it came very naturally," Mr Schumi says. "With knees, elbows and shins protectively padded, I travel three to six miles every day, feel fit as a fiddle, and after a

month found I had lost over a stone."

Middle-aged women could try pumping iron. A recent American study showed that older women who work out with dumb-bells and training machines sharply reduce the risk of the bone-thinning condition osteoporosis. But before you leap into Lycra, consider the question — are you fit enough to take exercise?

Physical fitness trainer Nigel Sapsed, of the Conrad Fitness First Health Club, believes in the softly, softly approach.

"It is never too late to get fit, but how to get fit depends on a number of factors — your lifestyle, your diet, how much exercise you take and your exercise history. How

much sport have you done since you left school?"

Mr Sapsed emphasises the importance of exercise early in life. "Whatever your age, fitness means heart, lungs and muscles working to optimum ability. The fittest among us will have started to exercise when very young. Blood supply is at its best when a child's bones are still forming, so the more exercise you get when young the stronger your internal structure will be."

"It's more than likely that Lady Hulise enjoyed sport in her girl-

hood. As we get older the body begins to deteriorate, and we lose bone density. Without exercise, the frame weakens, and muscles waste away. By middle age the typical sedentary person will either be very thin, or overweight with fat covering very small muscles."

For the couch potatoes among us, Mr Sapsed recommends walking as the ideal introduction to a mature physical fitness plan. "It costs nothing, and it's sociable." He reckons 40 minutes' brisk walking a day, three days a week is

ideal. "Exercise increases the body's efficiency. When you begin a regime the muscles start to grow. The lungs will supply muscles with oxygen more efficiently. Don't forget that the heart is a muscle and, like any other, proper use strengthens it. Its job is to pump blood through the arteries to the rest of the body, but the heart does not pump it back. That is done through the veins by use of muscles such as the diaphragm. Of course fat is used up in the creation of energy resulting in weight loss."

muscles such as the thighs and hamstrings and is the ideal alternative to jogging on hard pavements which, in middle age, can put too much strain on knees, hips and lower back."

Finally, for those who recoil at the idea of any exertion, a Chinese approach might be the answer. Zhan Zhuang (pronounced jahn-jong) is the 2,700-year-old technique of developing internal energy through prolonged stationary exercise. At a recent press launch for a Channel 4 Zhan Zhuang series, a roomful of sceptical journalists had the smiles wiped from their faces by a demonstration from master exponent Lam Kam Chuen.

● Details: The Conrad Fitness First Health Club, Conrad Hotel, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10, 0171 823 3000; The Lam Clinic (Zhan Zhuang), 70 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1V 7DF

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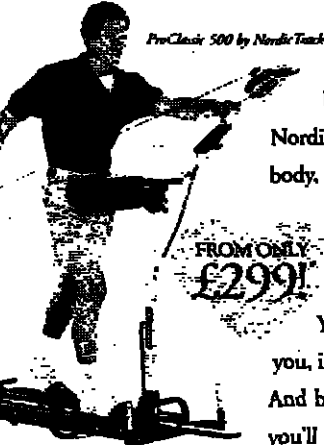
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NEWS

Farmers to defy veal blockade

Farmers went on the offensive yesterday, saying that they were determined to continue exporting livestock to the Continent and would not be deterred by the possibility of violence from animal rights groups.

As the courts paved the way for legal actions and damages claims against port and airport authorities, farmers leaders said that they would not allow "a tiny minority of boot boys in balaclavas" to stand in their way. Pages 1, 5

Cathedral to stage protester's funeral

The funeral of Jill Phipps, the veal protester who died last week, is to take place at Coventry Cathedral. The service in one of the most important post-war ecclesiastical buildings in Britain aroused fears that it will elevate Miss Phipps, 31, to the status of animal welfare martyr. Pages 1, 5

Tory staff to lose jobs

Up to a quarter of the staff at Conservative Central Office were told that they face redundancy because of the fall in financial support for the Tories. Page 1

Russians take Grozny

Russia claimed that it had finally overwhelmed the Chechen defenders of Grozny, and predicted that the bulk of the army would soon be withdrawn. Pages 1, 11

Shepherd stands firm

Gillian Shepherd brushed aside demands for more money for teachers as she suggested that schools and local authorities have up to £1.5 billion to meet their bills this year. Page 1

Gallantry medal

A military medal "for conspicuous gallantry and great heroism" is to be open to all ranks in the armed services. The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross will replace three existing medals. Page 1

'Dimwit' jibe to Blair

John Major branded Tony Blair a "dimwit" after the Labour leader pressed him to say whether he would join a European single currency if all the economic conditions were met. Page 2

Treasure unearthed

A metal-detecting enthusiast has found an early 17th-century gold ring with a diamond-encrusted design and workmanship that suggest a royal link. Page 3

Stewart resigns over pickaxe claims

Allan Stewart resigned as Scottish Office Minister in one of the more bizarre departures of this Parliament. Mr Stewart, 52, MP for Eastwood, decided to quit after allegations that he brandished a pickaxe in a confrontation with anti-motorway campaigners. He said he would fight the "wild and inaccurate allegations" made by the demonstrators. Page 1

Shopping centre sale

The Church of England is to sell its most profitable commercial asset, the MetroCentre in Gateshead, in an attempt to ease financial difficulties. Page 4

Wise faces jail

The England and Chelsea footballer Dennis Wise faces "a serious risk of custody" after being found guilty of assault and criminal damage. He will be sentenced next month. Page 6

Jobs for ministers

David Hunt, the Public Services Minister, told the Nolan inquiry into standards in public life that restricting former ministers' rights to take private-sector jobs might be illegal. Page 8

Haw-Haw mercy plea

The Government was flooded with appeals for clemency when "Lord Haw-Haw" was about to be hanged in 1946, documents released by the Public Record Office show. Page 9

Balkan warning

The Balkans is "one spark away from a much wider war", according to the American Assistant Secretary of State. Page 10

Banking on the future

The European Monetary Institute is planning the most momentous peacetime change to Europe's economies since the end of the gold standard. George Brock reports. Page 10



The actors Richard Wilson and Lenny Henry at the launch of Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. Charity fund-raising events on March 17 will include Archbishop Tutu imitating a sheep and Rowan Atkinson skating with Jayne Torvill in *Torvill and Dean*.

BUSINESS

Brewing: The Office of Fair Trading has upped the big brewers with another inquiry, this time into the different wholesale prices they charge their own and other pubs for beer. Page 25

Drug wars: Glaxo, the drug company enmeshed in Britain's biggest takeover battle, has put out interim figures that confirm falling sales of its biggest money-spinner, the ulcer drug Zantac. Page 25

Economy: Manufacturing output bounced back in December to produce a year-on-year increase of 5.3 per cent. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose by 10.7 points to 3072.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 79.1 to 79.0 after a fall from \$1.5605 to \$1.5570. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: England lost the final Test against Australia by 329 runs in Perth and the Ashes 3-1. Craig McDermott took six wickets for 38 and was named the player of the series. Page 48

Football: Dennis Wise is to continue as captain of Chelsea. The club issued a statement of support after he was found guilty of assault and criminal damage. Page 48

Rugby union: The Scottish Rugby Union is to review the number of matches to be played at Murrayfield next season because of the deteriorating pitch. Page 43

Racing: If sportsmen can earn £1 million in clothing sponsorships, what price Master Oats, favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National? Page 42

FEATURES

Phase 3: After the hard sell of the 1950s and the creativity of the 1980s, what next for advertising? Maurice Saatchi. Page 14

Dear John: Details of John Major's youthful fling are so poignant, so period, that they are irresistible, says Libby Purves. Page 14

FASHION

Happy union: Why Stirling Cooper's invitation to Nicholas Knightly to design collections for his stores is good news for both. Page 15

PROPERTY

Concrete countryside? Almost two million homes are due to be built in the South. What will this mean for the countryside? Page 41

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

SPACED OUT
Geoff Brown on positively the last appearance of Captain Kirk in *Star Trek: Generations*

POLITICAL STAR

Ian McIntyre reviews the first biography of Tony Blair

ARTS

Cartoon kings: When ten million people watched Nick Park's Oscar-winning film *The Wrong Trousers* on BBC1, they proved that animation is taking off as never before. And Britain's prize-winning animators are leading the worldwide revolution. Page 37

A servant returns: *The Servant* began life as a novel in 1948 and there was a 1950s stage version. Both were eclipsed by Joseph Losey's 1963 film, starring Dirk Bogarde. Now a Birmingham production brings *The Servant* back to the stage. Page 39

Tasting fame: Peter Jackson, the New Zealand director of arguably the most tasteless films released in Britain, has produced a mainstream work of astonishing emotional resonance and complexity. *Heavenly Creatures* arrives in London this week. Page 37

Paris art: Continental views of England dominate the two big winter art shows in Paris: André Derain and Kurt Schwitters. Page 38

Channel 4 funds: What could Channel 4 produce if it did not have to pay millions every year to ITV? Page 21

Soggy market: The British love their potato crisps — but the manufacturers are having a hard time. Page 21

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The gang wars fought over Leicester's hot dog business are dramatised in *Crime Story* (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** Lyne Truss watches British commandos in action in Norway but discovers that it is all a game. Page 47

PIRATES OF PEKING

America's use of trade sanctions against Peking has not always been well-aimed: but it is time that Peking accepted that the laws which bind its partners in world trade apply to China too. Page 17

CUDLY TERRORISM

As soon as one examines the logic behind the protests at Shoreham, it becomes clear that the new, "respectable" army of civil disobedients is being exploited by gangs intent on disruption. Page 17

THE HOLY SCAFFOLDING

Critical repairs have just begun on the great dome of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, for the first time since 1866. Page 17

SIMON JENKINS

That millions should be diverted into the bank accounts of the executives of public utilities is indefensible and plain wrong. Page 16

ALAN COREN

We all have our Adlestrops. We all have stopped unwittingly in some spot remarkable for nothing but a fortuitous concatenation of affective odds and sods which subsequently made it unforgettable; Benton, Illinois, is mine. Page 16

OBITUARIES

Professor J.S. de Wet, former Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, Balliol College, Oxford. The Very Rev Professor Robert Craig, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Ferruccio Tagliavini, Italian lyric tenor. Page 19

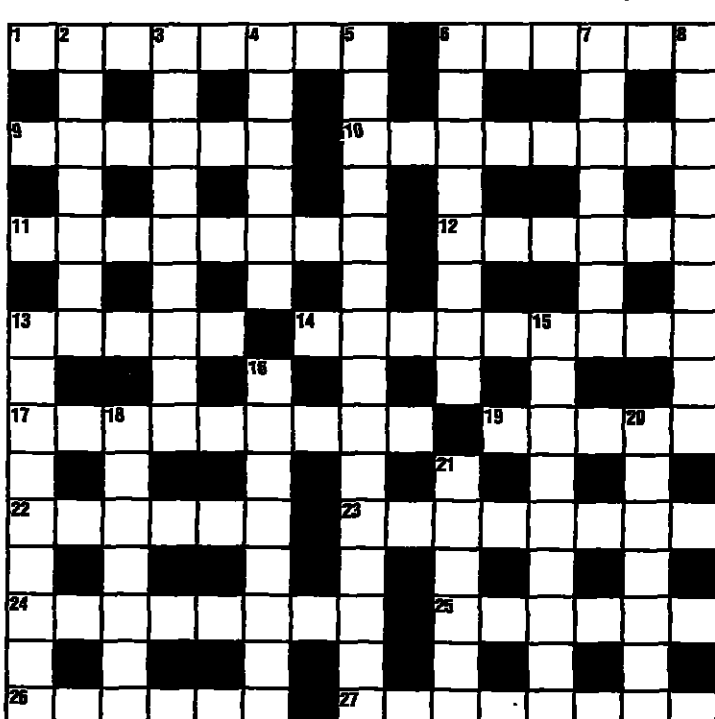
LETTERS

Northern Ireland: local government; HMS *Caroline*. Page 17

THE PAPERS

For President Walesa, leading a constitutional state has proved more frustrating than leading a revolution. Constant confrontation is not always the best way to serve democracy. — *The New York Times*

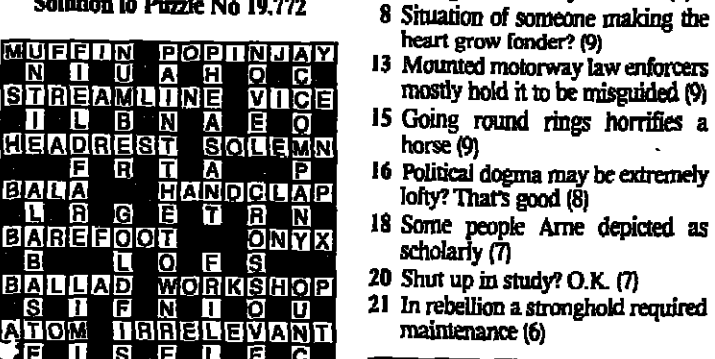
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,773



ACROSS

- 1 Striking stretch of river benefiting the community (8)
- 6 About 500 are seen around a shopping area (6)
- 9 With money behind her, she would have an old car (6)
- 10 Singled out to guard high-class spoils? (8)
- 11 On which a salesman may sell some bread (8)
- 12 Candle-maker entirely in drag (6)
- 13 Republic's popular backing for relief (5)
- 14 Poor teacher has endless anguish (9)
- 17 A London theatre's source of protection (9)
- 19 Room for players who read between the lines (5)
- 22 Anti-lion found outside a shed (4-2)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,772



Times Two Crossword, page 48

FORECAST

General: much of England and Wales will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of mainly light rain. Winds light to moderate, generally from the northeast. It will remain mild in the south. Further north, sleet or snow is expected. Northern Scotland will have showers of snow or hail. Most of the rest of Scotland will have the odd shower of snow or sleet, with a few showers in Northern Ireland as well.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b-bright; c-cloud; d-drizzle; ds-dust storm; du-dust; f-fair; fg-fog; g-gale; h-hail; i-rain; sh-snow; s-sleet; sn-snow; sw-sun; t-thunder; w-wind.

MONDAY HIGHEST DAY TEMPERATURES

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Bristol 5.2 pm to 7.26 am
Edinburgh 5.0 pm to 7.41 am
Manchester 5.0 pm to 7.41 am
Penzance 5.2 pm to 7.41 am

WINDS

Sun rises: 7.28 am
Sun sets: 5.02 pm
Moon rises: 1.54 am
Moon sets: 11.05 am

Full moon February 15

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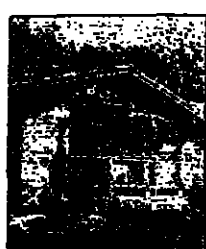
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ARTS 37-39

Not-so-silly putty:
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HOMES 41

Will we learn to
live the
American dream?



SPORT 42-48

Trainer uses Gold
Cup favourite
to lure sponsors

WHEN
SECRETS MUST
BE KEPT
Page 36

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8 1995

Warburg loses two top men to Morgan Grenfell

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE crisis at SG Warburg, the City investment bank, has deepened as two of its most senior corporate financiers have defected to Morgan Grenfell, where they will build a new equities distribution business.

Bank in London. Morgan Grenfell would not comment on the value of their pay and bonus packages, but they were rumoured to be worth several million pounds each.

Their decision to abandon the Warburg ship was described by one rival investment banker as "a significant body blow for Warburg."

Mike Dobson, Morgan Grenfell's chief executive, who will run the combined investment banking group, confirmed last night that Mr Thompson and Mr Cohrs will join as corporate finance directors. He said: "We said in 1994 that we planned to build an integrated investment banking organisation from our base in London. Key to that is the development of a leading equity origination business. I am therefore delighted to welcome two such experienced and successful practitioners to help us achieve this."

Deutsche Bank announced its intention to compete head-on with the global integrated investment banks such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley in October last year when it decided to pull together its worldwide investment banking businesses in a new London base, run by Morgan Grenfell, the UK merchant bank it bought in 1989. However, in order to do so it needs to build up an equities business in London and strengthen its operation in the US.

Morgan Grenfell pulled out of securities in 1988, concentrating instead on corporate advisory work, asset management and emerging markets. The new operation has not yet been given a name. The process of integration and creation of an equities distribution capability in London is expected to take between three and five years. Warburg refused to comment on the departures. A replacement is expected to be announced today.

Rumbelows to close with loss of 3,000 jobs

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THORN EMI is to close its Rumbelows high street chain with the loss of nearly 3,000 jobs as the group pulls out of the fiercely competitive electrical retailing market.

The group plans to shut down its 285 Rumbelows stores and 36 FONA outlets, a TV and hi-fi rental business in north east England, by the end of April. The 2,900 jobs will go by June 30.

The news was broken to staff at a series of meetings with managers before the stores opened yesterday. Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn's chairman, said he deeply regretted the job losses but believes the decision to close the chain was unavoidable.

Rumbelows has not made a profit since the mid-1980s and continues to make heavy losses despite attempts to turn it round. "We just decided enough is enough," Sir Colin said. Rumbelows has made losses of £12 million in the past two years and is on track to lose a similar amount in the current year in spite of an underlying increase in sales.

Sir Colin said the chain had suffered because it was a small player in a highly competitive market. As a primarily high street operator, it has also fallen victim to the growing number of out-of-town superstores that sell a wider range of electrical goods.

The group failed to find any potential buyers for the stores which would have kept them open. "The other players all have their own problems. Why would they want to add ours?" Sir Colin said.

The £11 billion electrical retailing sector has generated a steady stream of bad news in recent months. Last year Amstrad pulled out of the market after a continued squeeze on margins.

In January Kingfisher disclosed that its Comet chain had seen a near-11 per cent fall in like-for-like sales in the 23 weeks to January 7 and would make a loss for the full year.

The decision to pull the plug on Rumbelows will wipe £132 million off Thorn's full-year profits. The costs comprise £56.7 million of property and asset write-offs, £34.3 million of redundancy costs and £16.0 million goodwill write-back.



Sir Colin: deep regrets

Tempus, page 28

Manufacturing rebounds

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

MANUFACTURING output bounced back in December from an unexpectedly weak November to produce a year-on-year increase of 5.3 per cent, according to Government figures issued yesterday.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said the data showed that growth had been sustained "very strongly" in the final quarter of last year, justifying last Thursday's half-point base-rate rise. Mr Clarke said his latest monetary tightening was part of a policy to ensure that "growth was sustained without inflation coming back to disturb it".

City economists said the data indicated the pace of growth in manufacturing was on a decelerating trend. The Treasury said output had now slowed to a "more sustainable rate". The seasonally adjusted figures showed a 0.5 per cent rise in manufacturing output in December, after a revised 0.6 per cent fall in November. Over the final quarter, it rose 0.7 per cent for a year-on-year rise of 5.2 per cent.

The rebound in manufacturing combined with a surge in oil output from an exceptionally weak November to lift overall industrial production 0.8 per cent in December, after a 1.4 per cent fall in November. This boosted the year-on-year rise to 5.3 per cent from 4 per cent the previous month.

In the final quarter, the year-on-year rise was 5 per cent for industrial production and 5.2 per cent for manufacturing. For the whole of 1994, the extractive industries, including oil and gas, raised output 18.8 per cent.

The Clinton Administration expects short-term rates to fall by about half a point by early 1996. Laura Tyson, White House chief economist, said yesterday. US rates were raised half a point last week.

Pennington, page 27

Brewing shares fall as OFT starts new inquiry

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Office of Fair Trading has thrown a spanner into the big brewers' works with yet another inquiry into their dealings, this time into the different wholesale prices they charge their pubs and other companies' pubs for beer.

Brewers such as Courage, Whitbread, Carlsberg-Tetley and Bass own chains of tied pubs to which they supply beer at prices they set.

In recent years, amid overcapacity in brewing, they have had to grant huge discounts to independent pub owners to persuade them to take their product, to the extent that a gulf has opened between these discounted prices and the deals on offer to the brewers' own tied pubs.

This matter is now to be examined by the OFT to see whether it reduces competition in the pub trade, and the result may be a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The brewing industry has been plagued by such inquiries in recent years.

most notably that leading to the 1989 Beer Orders, supposed to form a framework for the relationship between brewers and their tied estates. Yesterday's news sparked a fall in the share prices of big brewers. Bass plunged 20p to 520p, Whitbread 28p to 536p and Allied Domecq, joint owner of Carlsberg-Tetley with the Danes, 5p to 515p.

The shares of other brewers and pub operators also fell, reflecting the general uncertainty in the sector.

One victim affected rather more drastically was Century Inns, a pub company that had hoped to set the exact price of its £60 million stock market flotation today. The float had to be postponed as a result of the OFT bombshell, even though the inquiry does not affect the company directly. "We got caught in the sideways, and it didn't seem sensible to proceed, given all the uncertainty," said a source close to the company.

The expected market debuts of a clutch of other small pub operators later this year are likely to be similarly derailed, even though none of the companies has formally announced an intention to float.

The OFT said that it expects its inquiry to take about three months. It will then be up to Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, to decide what to do. The matter was referred to the OFT by the European Commission.

As well as a formal and time-consuming reference to the MMC, Sir Bryan, if he finds current arrangements detrimental to the public interest, can require the brewers to give enforceable undertakings to change their ways.

The EC had been looking at the 20-year agreement governing licenses of Intreprenuer Estates, the pub operator jointly owned by Courage and Grand Metropolitan, to see whether it contravened the Treaty of Rome.

Pennington, page 27

Glaxo admits sales of most successful drug are slipping

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GLAXO, the drug company enmeshed in Britain's biggest takeover battle, has rushed into interim figures that confirm falling sales of its biggest money-spinner, the ulcer drug Zantac.

The group reported pre-tax profits for the first half to December 31 that advanced by 10 per cent to £1,097 billion. The figures spurred a 12p decline in Glaxo's share price to 649p and critical comment from Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group for which Glaxo is bidding £9.5 billion.

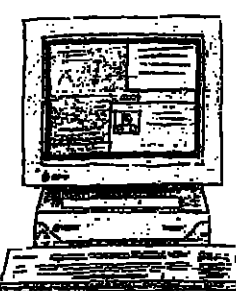
The issue of Glaxo's formal offer document yesterday starts the takeover clock ticking, and the Wellcome management has 21 days to find a counterbidder, under conditions set by the Wellcome Trust, the charity that owns 40 per cent of Wellcome. The trust has said that it will accept the Glaxo offer if no improved deal can be found.

Sales across the Glaxo group were largely static at £2.85 billion, and earnings per share advanced from 23.4p to 24.3p. The interim dividend is raised by 1p to 10p.

Sales of Zantac fell by 4 per cent, affected by discounting in America. Sir Richard Sykes, deputy chairman and chief executive, conceded: "Zantac continues to decline slowly in the world market." If Glaxo's bid is successful, debts at the combined group would rise to more than £3 billion. Although the company insists interest cover would remain low, the formal offer document makes clear the strain on finances.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive of Wellcome, said: "Glaxo's interim results show little improvement in sales or earnings per share and highlight its desire to acquire a company with a record of strong growth."

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Jobs to be axed as NatWest shakes up branch banking

PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE National Westminster Bank is to overhaul its UK branch banking operations, focusing on six new business units and slimming down its head office functions.

The restructuring will mean job losses as the number of regional boards for retail banking is cut from 18 to ten and head office jobs are moved out into the new business units. The bank has already said it is planning to cut jobs this year — it is thought to be considering a similar number to last year's 4,000.

A spokesman said the bank hopes the new structure will be in place within the next three or four months. The move is aimed at creating "a slimmer, leaner, more policy-focused head office".

NatWest will divide its branch banking division into six units, each concentrating on a specific business area in which the bank hopes to achieve "a major presence".

The managing directors of the new units will report to Martin Gray, chief executive of NatWest UK, who is spearheading the restructuring.

Instead of the present 18 regional offices, there will be ten new retail bank regions looking after personal and small business customers and reporting to Tony Warren, formerly chief operating officer of NatWest Bancorp, the US subsidiary. Two of London's five regions will go.

Six new corporate banking regions, handling medium and large business accounts, will report to Tony Shaw, former director of credit management.

The bank is also creating four new product units, through which it hopes to increase accountability and concentrate attention on businesses where it intends to build up market share.

Five hundred mortgage sales staff will join a new

mortgage services unit, headed by George Wise, former customer services director.

NatWest Life, which has a salesforce of 1,500, selling life assurance and savings products, will become a new life and investment services unit, headed by its current chief executive, Lawrence Churchill.

A new general insurance unit will replace NatWest Insurance Services, headed by Steve Wells, its managing director. Patrick Boylan, Midland Bank's general manager of retail banking, joins NatWest on March 1 to head a new cards unit, bringing together credit and debit card services and activities.

Head office will be made up of slimmed-down marketing and communications, human resources, finance, compliance, credit management and strategy departments. They will provide core support services to the regions and overall policy direction.



Prospering in a difficult market: John Hall, managing director of Brewin Dolphin, yesterday

Brewin Dolphin profits leap 27%

BREWIN DOLPHIN, the newly floated fund manager and stockbroker, managed a 27 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £4 million in the year to December 9, in spite of difficult market conditions

(Patricia Tehan writes). Total income was 11 per cent higher at £29.3 million. After the flotation, earnings per share were diluted to 13.2p against 17.4p in 1993. In line with the interim statement, there is a

total dividend of 6p with the final of 4p due on April 6. The FT-SE 100 index has fallen by 13 per cent since December 1993, which affected the firm's advisory and discretionary income.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lorry registrations keep accelerating

REGISTRATIONS of new lorries continued to recover strongly in January, rising 63.7 per cent over the same period a year ago. British-built lorries maintained a 39.6 per cent share of registrations, at 1,666 of the 4,203 vehicles registered. The figures appear to confirm a recovery by manufacturing industry.

However, sales of vans, which are popular with service industries, grew much more slowly. Registrations of medium-weight vans, with a payload of 1.8 to 3.5 tonnes, rose by 21.1 per cent to 8,844, whereas light van registrations rose by just 12.4 per cent to 6,867. New buses and coaches doubled, to 344, but registrations of British-built public service vehicles rose by just 11 to 137 and imports increased from 43 in January 1994 to 207 this January. Leyland DAF trucks, the Anglo-Dutch federation of companies, took first place, registering 866 vehicles, and Mercedes Benz of Germany was second, with 795.

SBC's Northern move

NORTHERN ELECTRIC yesterday learned that Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC), which is advising Trafalgar House on its £1.2 billion offer for the company, has bought more Northern shares. SBC now owns 5.2 million shares, 4.7 per cent of the company. The reply to the last Section 212 notice, on February 1, disclosed that it held about 100,000 fewer. "We feel that 4.7 per cent is a large amount and shareholders should know about it," a Northern spokesman said. The shares are held by SBC's market-makers. The corporate finance side, which is advising Trafalgar, says that it has no idea of the market-makers' intentions.

HTR launches trust

HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT printed 400,000 mini prospectuses to mark the launch yesterday of its HTR Income & Growth Split Capital investment trust. The trust will have two classes of share, Income Ordinary and Zero Dividend Preference, each with an issue price of 100p. Investors will be able to shelter the shares within the tax-free environment of a personal equity plan in this tax year and in the one starting on April 6. HTR's Income shares will be looking for an initial gross starting yield of 7.5 per cent; the others will aim for an annual compound fixed capital growth rate of 9.5 per cent. The offer closes on March 8.

Angerstein dividend

ANGERSTEIN UNDERWRITING TRUST, one of the raft of investment vehicles that was created in 1993 to provide corporate capital to the Lloyd's insurance market, generated net pre-tax revenue of £1.2 million in the six months to November 30. Earnings were 1.39p per share. Angerstein is paying an interim dividend of 0.80p per share, making a total for the 12 months, following the offer for sale, of 2p a share. Net asset value per share increased marginally over the period from 90.28p to 90.31p. The overall capacity for 1995 has increased slightly from £128 million to £144.05 million.

WMI advances 9.5%

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, the overseas arm of the American WMX Technologies that is listed in London, lifted pre-tax profits by 9.5 per cent to £165.2 million in the year to December 31. A mixed performance in 1994 saw revenues advance 18.5 per cent to £1.16 billion. Earnings rose 4.9 per cent to 27.5p a share, compared with 26.5p. The company said its performance in the current year will depend on resolving difficulties in countries including Italy, Germany and France. WMI's UK businesses performed satisfactorily.

BR strives to cement a deal

BRITISH RAIL'S plans to sell its 30 industrial subsidiaries suffered a setback yesterday when it announced that it had been unable to find a buyer for its Taunton concrete works (Jonathan Prynn writes).

The works, which have incurred heavy losses in recent years and employed 35 people, will be shut down in six months time. Dating back to the late 19th century heyday of the Great Western Railway, the works were BR's last in-house manufacturer of concrete sleepers.

Last year, BR's architectural and design unit was closed when no private sector sale could be agreed.

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Australia \$	2.19	3.02
Austria S	17.78	16.28
Belgium Fr	52.04	47.74
Canada \$	2.22	2.12
Cypriot Cyp	0.778	0.75
Denmark Kr	10.00	8.5
Finland Mk	7.53	7.28
France Fr	6.70	6.5
Germany Dm	2.54	2.5
Greece Dr	380.00	380.00
Hong Kong \$	12.70	11.70
India Ru	1.08	0.9
Italy Lira	2915.00	2600.00
Japan Yen	162.00	158.00
Malta	0.614	0.59
Netherlands Gld	2.624	2.594
Norway Kr	11.03	10.5
Portugal Esc	257.00	238.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.29
Spain Ps	213.50	198.50
Sweden Kr	12.21	11.41
Switzerland Fr	2.15	2.1
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□ OFT serves up more uncertainty □ Cheap Wellcome for Glaxo □ Slowing down gracefully

Another round of beer orders

THE air must have turned blue in the head offices of the brewers and pub operators after yet another sudden eruption of the Office of Fair Trading onto the already over-examined beer trade. The choicest oaths came from poor old Century Inns, which can hardly have expected quite such a sudden derailment on the track towards a quote. Also severely disadvantaged are the likes of Pubmaster, Enterprise Inns, Magic Pub Company and, yes, even uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all, the latter named only the most curiously-named of the pub operators who are now probable unfathomable until the OFT has ruled. This is ironic given that this new breed of pubco owes its very nature to the 1989 Beer Orders, which freed thousands of the country's pubs from the tie to be bought up by the independents.

uncertainty, the much-forecast sale of Courage by Foster's, its Australian parent, to Whitbread and Scottish & Newcastle? Rather less than the £500 million bruited around earlier this year, and the OFT's intervention has probably scotched the deal entirely for now. Further questions should be directed to Foster's, conveniently announcing interims on Monday.

After all the acres of print and the years of valuable time expended by the OFT, the MMC and other interested bodies on examining the brewing and pub sectors, you will still pay up to two quid for a decent pint anywhere in central London. There is little likelihood that the latest probe will change this sad state of affairs.

The 1989 Beer Orders were intended by their very nature to rule once and for all on the relationship between the brewers and their tied estates. But in the event the Government only went half way, reducing the size of the tie rather than abolishing it outright.

Since then, various new and interconnected factors have

intervened: in no particular order, the fall in beer consumption, the cross-Channel booze cruise, the emergence of the small pubcos and the size of the discounts they have been able to wrest from the brewers. The inquiry is to look only at the relationship between the "larger" brewers and their tenants, but these things have a habit of spreading, and indeed this one probably should, to take in the regional companies as well. The brewing industry, not in the best of health, is set for yet more uncertainty. Thanks, Sir Bryan, and cheers — but this round is definitely on you.

Alternative medicine elusive

NOW that both sides in Glaxo's bid for Wellcome have shown their hands, it looks increasingly like Glaxo is poised to pick up its chosen drugs company on the cheap.

Admittedly, it is difficult to think of anything that costs £9.1 billion as cheap, particularly when Glaxo is offering a 52 per



cent premium to Wellcome's market price before the bid. But buried in the group's offer document is a pro-forma income statement that suggests that the group is not being as profligate as it might appear.

The figures show that Glaxo can take on Wellcome, issuing all the necessary shares and taking on £6.3 billion of borrowings without suffering any earnings dilution. In other words, it intends to keep all the rationalisation benefits and future growth for its own investors, leaving Wellcome's shareholders in the cold. Admittedly, Glaxo is taking on 300 per cent gearing to buy Wellcome, but even this is not as onerous as it sounds. After the deal, the group should still be

generating interest cover of more than seven times, which is considerably higher than many industrial companies that do not have a multi-billion pound deal to their name.

Glaxo's interim figures show why the group is so keen to wrap this deal up. Not only is it suffering falling sales from Zimac, its ageing golden goose, but the growth of some of its newer drugs such as Zofran, an anti-emetic, has also gone into reverse. That does not compare at all well to the solid growth that Zovirax, Wellcome's principal earner, continues to generate.

The figures do not say much for the negotiating skill of Wellcome Trust or its advisers. They have sold out too hastily and too cheaply and given John Robb, Wellcome's chairman, little time to find a better offer. Mr Robb's greatest handicap is that Wellcome is worth more to Glaxo than any of its rivals because no other drugs company could generate the same rationalisation benefits. The market does not believe that Mr Robb stands much of a chance since Wellcome's shares stand at 16p

below the offer price. But three weeks is a long time in the City, and Mr Robb has the hard data to tempt counter-bidders.

Managing a dull economy

CITY economists see the latest industrial output figures as evidence of the economy slowing down. Manufacturing, the least volatile element, rose 0.7 per cent between the third and fourth quarters, after three quarterly gains of more than 1 per cent. Output of intermediate goods, which peaked early in the last cycle, is already stagnant.

These figures confirm and emphasise the early estimate for gross domestic product, which showed a 0.8 per cent fourth-quarter rise. Both imply growth is falling from 4 per cent last year to nearer 3 per cent in 1995.

In terms of economic management, a gentle slowing is good news. It implies that interest rates will not have to go up much more to ensure that the growth is not unsustainably fast and therefore inflationary. If economic

management works, modest growth can continue indefinitely. Do not bet on that yet. The Bank of England has a stern brief in its drawer, suggesting that the underlying long-term growth rate is only about 2 per cent. Today's Bank Inflation Report should take a relaxed view but if the financial markets smell inflation, the Bank will not hesitate to press for further restraint.

In terms of the nation's prosperity, sustainable growth at 2 to 3 per cent is, in any case, nothing to get excited about. The only realistic way to raise the underlying growth rate, as the CBI manufacturing council report argues, is to improve the performance of industry and services in innovation and exports. Efforts to meet that challenge are way behind the simpler craft of economic management.

Queuing for life

SUN Alliance is anxious that the insurance products it plans to sell through thousands of post offices in its new tie-up should not require detailed knowledge or "impossible standards of training" for post office staff. According to Sun Alliance, candidates for over-the-counter sales include investment bonds, single premium life assurance products and pure life protection policies. Plus ça change.

£5m a week operating profits at BSkyB

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television company floated on the stock market in December, is currently making operating profits of more than £5 million a week, the company has said in an upbeat interim financial report.

In its first set of halfway figures since the flotation BSkyB has reported pre-tax profits that advanced from £3.8 million to £5.5 million in

the half year to December 31. The figures came in at the top end of City forecasts, sparking a 3½p rise in the share price to 267½p.

Earnings per share rose from 2.8p to 3.3p. As suggested at the time of the float, there is no interim dividend, but the company expects to make a final payment for this year.

The flotation reduced the shareholding of News International, the owner of The Times, to 40 per cent. The proceeds of the sale, however, halved its debt of £1.8 billion. As a result the first-half pre-tax figure was struck after £30.2 million of interest payments that will not recur in the second half.

BSkyB said that the second half would see further falls in borrowings, now standing at just over £900 million, through cash flow. Richard Brooke, chief financial officer, said: "We won't see obviously massive debt reductions, as we saw in the first half from the results of the flotation."

As well as News International's stake, Chargeurs de France owns 17 per cent, Pearson, the conglomerate that owns the Financial Times, 13 per cent and Granada Group 10 per cent.

First-half operating profits, ahead of the interest charge, stood at £111 million before the flotation costs of £8.2 million, representing an underlying 63 per cent increase.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive and managing director, said: "By any standards this is an excellent result. In every area of operation the company has performed strongly."

Total paying subscribers grew year-on-year from 3.48 million to 3.96 million, and there were now more than four million homes that could receive the Sky channels, the company said. Most viewers subscribed through direct-to-home (DTH) satellite receivers, and strong high street sales of dishes helped to contribute to an 180,000 net increase in subscribers through that method.

All three main revenue categories showed increases, with DTH subscription revenue up 53 per cent, cable revenue up 72 per cent and advertising sales revenue up 12 per cent.

A £30 million rise in the level of pre-payments for television programming held back the increase in net cash inflow, but BSkyB said that was not expected to recur in the second half.

Full listing sought by Shani Group

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

SHANI GROUP, the USM-quoted women's and children's wear manufacturer, unveiled plans to seek a full listing on the Official List in March as it reported pre-tax profits of £3.51 million for the 15 months to October 31.

The extended reporting period was due to the group's change of year-end from July to October.

Peter Emanuel, finance director, said sales and profits had risen by about 5 per cent in the 12 months to October 31, compared with the previous year.

He attributed the rise to a strong final quarter, particularly in the coats division, which supplies retailers such as Harrod's, Debenhams & Jones and Selfridges.

A final dividend of 4.2p (5.5p) brings the total payout to 7.2p (8.3p) on April 7.

Current trading has started well and the group believes it is well placed to benefit from the move by retailers towards a smaller number of more efficient suppliers.

Progress was also made in the separates division, where intense competition has put margins under pressure. Mr Emanuel said that sales had increased although prices on commodity lines were the same or even lower than they had been last year.



Bill Fairservice, the chairman of Zotefoams, yesterday with a hockey stick, a rucksack and a sleeping mat, all made with the company's foam

Zotefoams is heading for market

ZOTEFOAMS, a foam producer formed in a management buyout from BP in 1992, is coming to market via a placing sponsored by NatWest Markets Corporate Finance, with Cazenove as broker. Zotefoams is estimated to have about 85 per cent of the UK market for cross-linked polyethylene block foam, and 55 per cent of the market on the Continent. The final prospectus is expected this month.

Zotefoams made pre-tax profit of £4.6 million (£2.8 million) in the year to December 31. Non-executive directors include Roger Lawson, a director of 3i and president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Beales, the department store group based in Bournemouth, is to seek a stock exchange listing in March. The operator of six department stores hopes to float its holding company, JEB, via an introduction sponsored by Singer & Friedlander. Beeson Gregory is broker to the issue.

Unkhold, one of the UK's biggest national distribution and logistics businesses, has been bought for £78 million in a management and employee buyout led by 3i. A flotation is planned in two to three years.

Golden result for Harry Ramsden

HARRY RAMSDEN'S, Britain's only quoted fish and chip shop group, accompanied another advance in profits with plans to expand in the United Kingdom and to offer "a little piece of England" to more customers overseas.

The Yorkshire-based group, which was founded in 1928, served up a 16.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £950,557 in the year to October 2, as new restaurant openings helped turnover to grow 8.9 per cent to £3.58 million.

The group now has 13 Harry Ramsden's restaurants, with 11 in the UK after opening outlets in Bristol, Liverpool and Nottingham during the year, as well as restaurants in Hong Kong and Dublin.

Harry Ramsden's Hong Kong operation has taken away business from the locals, providing them with fish and

Market report, page 28

Deadline in Maxwell talks near

By JON ASHWORTH

MAXWELL pensioners will learn on Friday whether last-ditch talks over a near-£300 million global settlement have succeeded. Sir John Cuckney, mediator in discussions between Maxwell pension funds and City institutions, is understood to have set a Thursday evening deadline. Failure to reach agreement is expected to lead to multimillion-pound bilateral agreements and lengthy litigation against other parties.

Sir John is rumoured to be negotiating with half a dozen institutions. Separately, administrators to Maxwell private companies have achieved a token £10 million payout for pensioners. The AGB group of companies has agreed to pay this to settle claims against them as former employers.

Post offices to sell insurance policies for Sun Alliance

By LIZ DOLAN

CUSTOMERS of Britain's 20,000 post offices may soon be able to insure their cars while nipping in to pick up a book of stamps.

In a week when 100 post offices in the North West and South East start selling General Accident travel policies for a trial period, Britain's biggest retail chain has unveiled plans to sell a range of insurance policies in partnership with Sun Alliance.

Post Office Counters expects to launch a pilot scheme involving "one, possibly two" Sun Alliance policies, towards the end of this year. The type of products to be offered is still under discussion but, initially at least, post office staff will not be expected to sell complicated plans requiring detailed knowledge.

According to Sun Alliance,

investment bonds, single premium products, pure life protection policies, plus non-life products such as motor and household insurance, are all under consideration.

Pensions have definitely been ruled out.

"We are particularly interested in areas that will not require impossible standards of training, at least at the beginning," Sun Alliance said. Post Office Counters offered the same access to a large number of branches as has been traditionally offered to insurers by building societies and banks, it added.

The move is the latest in a series of joint ventures between Post Office Counters and the private sector.

The first was a chain of bureaux de change, launched in partnership with the Bank

of Ireland in May last year and currently operating in 4,000 of the 20,000 post offices and sub-post offices in the UK. Other private sector services available through post offices include National Lottery ticket sales, and a cash wiring service run by Western Union.

Sub-post offices in rural areas are expected to benefit from the new services. Post Office Counters said: "Any business that attracts new customers helps keep the chain secure. We're looking at anything that complements our existing services."

Girobank, set up by the old General Post Office in the 1960s, continues to conduct its face-to-face banking operations exclusively through post offices, despite its acquisition by the Alliance & Leicester Building Society in July, 1990.

Bryant surges 47% at halfway stage

By PHILIP PANGALOS



Andrew MacKenzie expects 3,700 completions this year

BRYANT GROUP provided mixed signals for the housing market as the Solihull house-builder accompanied a 47 per cent surge in first-half profits with "concern about housebuyers' confidence as higher interest rates start to bite."

Margins continued to recover during the first half as a steady improvement in the UK economy and greater confidence among homebuyers more than offset the effects of higher interest rates. Pre-tax profits advanced to a better than expected £21.4 million in the six months to November 30, compared with £14.6 million previously, as turnover expanded by 37 per cent to £244.5 million.

Bryant's core homes unit saw completions increase by 18 per cent to 1,745 (1,480), while improved efficiencies helped

margins rise to 11.3 per cent (10.1 per cent). Andrew MacKenzie, chief executive, said the company is on course to meet its completion target of 3,700 homes for the full year, while margins should hit 12 per cent by the year end.

The average selling price was £106,000 (£94,000). Sixty per cent of Bryant's house production is now more lucrative four and five-bedroom homes, compared with a third during the depths of recession. Colin Hope, chairman, said housebuyers' confidence had been undermined by threatened and actual rate rises, and tax and benefit changes.

Earnings rose 44 per cent to 5.2p (3.6p) a share and the interim payout is raised to 1.45p (1.4p), payable on April 26.

Tempus, page 28

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Analysts await the lemon list

ANALYSTS whose careers are made (or broken) by their rankings in the annual *Fortune* survey can be thankful they do not work on Wall Street. America's *Financial World*, the business magazine founded in 1902 that has a paid-for bi-weekly circulation of more than 500,000, is producing what it says is the 100 most useful list — the 100 worst analysts, based on data drawn from Bloomberg. The article, entitled "The Lemon List", shows rankings based on 4,635 stock recommendations, made by 633 analysts at 26 different firms between July 1, 1993, and June 30, 1994. According to this listing, the worst individual performer, who works for Smith Barney, turned in an average loss of \$8.5 per cent based on five recommendations, while the firm with the highest percentage of analysts who posted losses was Ladenburg Thalmann. Winners of the 100 wooden spoons are named in *FW's* February 28 issue.

On the run

VARIATIONS abound on the theme "the cheque is in the post". The latest survey by Accountemps, the financial recruitment consultant, includes: "The money for your invoice was given to a person to transfer to your account — but he has run off. At the moment, we are still tracking him down round a village in Africa..."

OFT BREWERY INVESTIGATION DEPT



Takeover tip

SOME investors stick pins in price lists for clues about the next takeover target, others might usefully follow Gisela Gledhill. Gledhill was company secretary at Consolidated Gold Fields, which in the 1980s was subject of the (then) record takeover bid of £3 billion from Minoro. Now she is company secretary at Wellcome, subject of a £9.2 billion bid from Glaxo.

Gone before

ON September 15, 1991, after 12 years with the group, Jim Maxmin left Thorn-EMI, where he was chief executive of the rental business that included Rumbelows. He then joined Laura Ashley, which he left last April with a £1.2 million payoff. On Monday, Laura Ashley shed 200 jobs. Yesterday, Thorn-EMI shed 2,900, when Rumbelows was axed.

Yen for a seat

NO SOONER does the Princess of Wales land in Japan than two brokers put up their hands to buy seats on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Paribas Capital Markets has offered 750 million yen (£48.4 million) for the seat being vacated by Kidder, Peabody. Smith New Court is offering 800 million yen for the seat of Prudential Securities (Japan). When County NatWest Securities quit Tokyo in March 1993, its seat fetched 1.1 billion yen.

SEEN in The Daily Yomiuri: Noh Music Concert. A free concert will be held at 6.30pm at Seinenkan Hall, Minato Ward, Tokyo. No reservations required.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Virtual reality is just the start of cinema changes. Eric Reguly reports

Belt up for the real movie experience

The first clue that *Dino Island* will not be a normal movie experience comes when you are told to climb into your seat, which resembles a swivel barber's chair, and fasten the safety belt around your hips. The second comes when you spot the large fan in front of the large, gently curved screen.

A moment later, your hair is flying backwards and you are being bounced around like a pinball as your all-terrain vehicle moves through the jungle of a mythical volcanic island. Suddenly, the foliage disappears and the vehicle is barreling towards a cliff. As it teeters on the edge, your hydraulic seat lurches forward at an alarming angle and you find yourself clutching the armrests in fright.

Seconds later, your seat shudders as a herd of dinosaurs thunders by. One of them, a tyrannosaurus rex as grouchily as the one in *Jurassic Park*, snaps its jaws at you, then gives chase. The vehicle scrambles away in reverse, crunching your spine as it blasts over the uneven terrain. Finally, you are soaring over the sea, breeze in your face, as a helicopter lifts you to safety.

The four-minute experience is nothing short of exhilarating. Welcome to the future of movies. The traditional format may be alive and well, but new formats, in which the audience "lives" the movie instead of merely watching it, are around the corner.

The simulation theatre that played *Dino Island* is one of several movie-based attractions sold by Iwerks Entertainment of Burbank, California, launched in 1986 by Don Iwerks and Stan Kinsey, two former executives of the Walt Disney Company.

After years of struggling, Mr Kinsey is convinced that rapid growth is imminent, especially in Asia and Europe. And he is not alone. The Iwerks Corporation of Toronto, the biggest player in the field, thinks the same.

About half of the Iwerks headquarters is devoted to unusual theatres. Next to the *Dino Island* theatre is a scaled-down version of the company's big-screen format (the commercial versions have screens that are 60ft high and



Out of the stone age: a Virtual Adventures vehicle, left, helps people to "live" as well as watch a film, changing the concept of going to the cinema

80ft wide). The projectionist plays a 70mm Prince video that makes you feel you are right on stage.

Around the corner is a 360-degree theatre whose screens, 15ft high, form a ring around the audience. The projection plays another movie video and manipulates it through "video wallpapering," in which images are laid on top of each other.

The last attraction is an interactive, virtual-reality theatre. Kids would love it. Wearing 3D glasses, a small team is put behind the controls of a submarine in Loch Ness. The goal is to find the Loch Ness monster's lair and save its eggs from an evil bounty hunter, who is armed with

green "immobilising gel". Mr Kinsey, the chief executive of Iwerks, said that the simulation and the interactive theatres show the greatest commercial potential. But, in spite of all the hype surrounding high-tech movies, the industry is surprisingly small and poorly funded. "This is a boutique industry and we're all looking for break-out strategies," he said.

Richard Gelfond, the company's vice-chairman, points to the new Sony complex in Manhattan, where the main attraction is an Iwerks 3D theatre with an eight-storey-high screen. The 40-minute movie, *Into The Deep*, is pulling in more than \$150,000 a week, making it the highest-

grossing screen on the Continent. Mr Gelfond said Stephen Spielberg saw the movie, leant over to a friend and said: "Can you imagine if I had made *Jaws* in this."

The high-tech movie industry, until recently, had done a remarkably good job at hiding its existence.

As far as anyone can remember, the first mass exposure to non-traditional movie formats occurred during Expo '67 in Montreal. There, a 360-degree movie took a standing on a wild car chase. Iwerks was created the same year, and showed its first giant-screen movie at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

The company's claim to



fame was a 70mm/15-perforation frame that was ten times larger than the standard 35mm/4-perforation frame (millimetres refers to the width of the film, perforations to the height). The clarity of the film, perforations to the height, projected onto a seven-storey screen, was superb. One of Iwerks' first movies, *Catch The Sun*, had audiences screaming during the roller-coaster segment.

A new industry was born. But it went nowhere fast. Iwerks and its imitators managed to place their products into some institutional locations, such as museums and planetariums, where educational films were shown, but the commercial market eluded them.

Bruce Peer, who was Iwerks' chief operating officer until

1990, said the industry's obsession with technology hampered its growth. He said the executives who ran the companies were more concerned with developing the finest picture quality than going after the mass entertainment market. Iwerks itself also seemed suspicious of Hollywood, whose studios would have been natural investors, and jealously guarded its Canadian roots in its early years.

Iwerks, which is 28 years old, has a library of only 100 films — Hollywood pumps out that many movies in a few months — and famous directors have shown little interest in making big-screen films. Companies such as Iwerks have far fewer

such as Iwerks have far fewer

films. The industry has restructured itself in an effort to break away from fringe status. Widespread exposure and profits would be their goal.

In 1993, Iwerks listed its shares on America's Nasdaq market and later bought Omni Films International, a company that specialised in the potentially high-growth simulation market. Omni's clients included Granada Studios, which has Motion Master and 3D theatres in Manchester.

Iwerks, unable to find a partner that would thrust it into the commercial market, followed the same route. Last year, the company was sold to a group of investors based in New York, including Wasserstein Perrella partners, the US buyout firm. At the same time, it acquired the Trumbull Company, which makes simulation software and theatres. A few months later, Iwerks listed a quarter of its shares on Nasdaq and hired Robert Corrigan, the former president of IBM's personal computer division, to run the company.

Neither Iwerks nor Iwerks has been an immediate success on the public market. Both are losing money and their shares have plummeted from their issue price. But they are expanding their operations. Their goal is to reach critical mass, the point at which they become large enough to justify the production of a steady stream of movies that do not cost a fortune to produce.

Iwerks' biggest move was teaming up with Japan's Itchu Corporation to build a Cinetropolis in Connecticut. The entertainment complex houses large-screen, simulation and virtual-reality theatres, plus a casino, shops and restaurants. A second was built in Japan.

Iwerks, for its part, is pushing hard into Europe and Asia. In December it signed a deal to open ten theatres in Spain over the next decade and four for Expo '96 in Tokyo. It also has formed a joint venture with Capital Cities/ABC, owner of America's ABC television network, to produce films.

Both Iwerks and Iwerks have had relatively little success in Britain — Iwerks has one giant-screen theatre here, at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in West Yorkshire — but they are negotiating for more exposure.

Will high-tech films ever become really popular, especially with the interactive-TV and other products about to explode onto the home market?

Mr Kinsey said home entertainment will not threaten the high-tech movie industry because it cannot offer the same thrill. "Consumers cannot afford things like 3D capsules, image-generators and giant screens," he said. "We're creating a whole new experience."

Our fate lies in Far Eastern hands

Exports must be more than a fill-in for when domestic sales slump, says a CBI study. Ross Tieman reports

The prosperity of Britain and its people beyond the year 2000 will be decided in the export markets of Pacific Asia.

Success in the sale of manufactured goods there would provide rising incomes and well-being for our next generation; failure would maintain the course of Britain's steady economic decline relative to the rest of the world.

Such are the conclusions of a study commissioned by the Confederation of British Industry's national manufacturing council from Ernst & Young, the accountancy practice.

The study, *Winning the Export Race*, set out to weigh the recent improvement in Britain's export performance against the CBI's goal of winning an extra 1 per cent share of world trade by the year 2000. It concluded that if the improvement is to be sustained, firms must make fundamental changes in their approach to exporting.

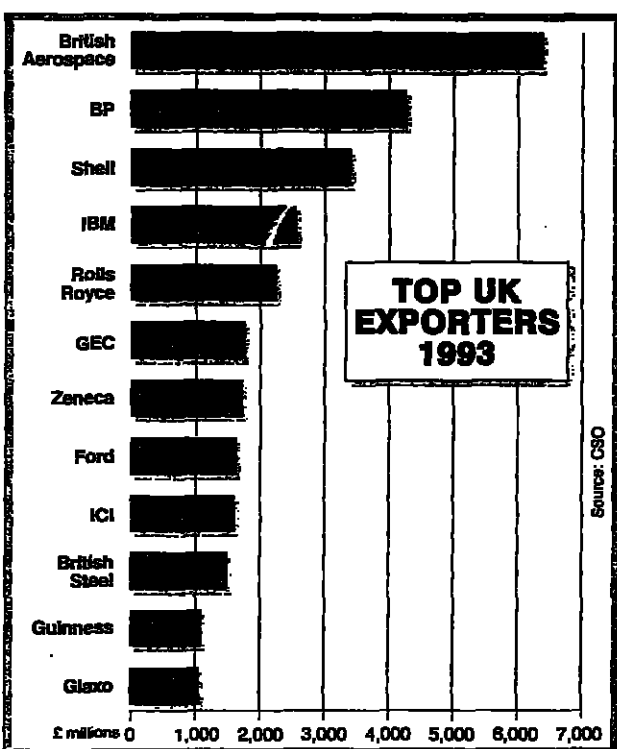
In spite of innovative practices by leading firms, the pattern of exporting continues

to reflect the world as it was, rather than as it will be.

During 1993, the United Kingdom exported goods worth £121 billion, to gain 4.8 per cent of world trade. Although exports of services remain sound, accounting for 50 per cent of the total, Britain trails in manufacturing. Equally worrying, Britain's share of exports to developing economies failed to keep pace with their growth. It slipped from 5.6 per cent of their imports in 1980 to just 3.2 per cent in 1993.

If the CBI's goal is to be achieved, the report says, exports to Europe and North America, Britain's biggest overseas markets, will have to rise by £50 billion by the turn of the century. However, to meet the target, sales elsewhere will have to rise by a further £40 billion. At current growth rates, a shortfall of £19 billion is likely.

The opportunity to redress this deficit, the report says, lies in the developing countries. However, these countries also pose a threat. At present, Britain is in fifth place in the international league of export-



ers, behind the United States, Germany, Japan and France. Newly industrialised countries, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, China and Taiwan, are now close behind. Moreover, such countries are switching their attention from low-tech products such as running shoes, bicycles,

toys and textiles towards information technology and electronics, areas that Britain and other developed nations used to consider their preserve.

To confront this threat, the study says, Britain should play to its strengths. At present, the UK's key exporters are extraordinarily concentrated. In 1993

just 100 companies accounted for 46 per cent of exports. A quarter of all exports were by just 12 companies. Their sales tended to reflect Britain's traditional manufacturing and technology strengths — electronic equipment, chemicals, mechanical engineering, motor vehicles, aerospace, food and drink, pharmaceuticals and so on.

However, by the year 2020, the report says, there will be a fundamental shift in the balance of purchasing power — reflected in forecasts that there will be more cars in the developing world than there are in the developed countries.

British companies must exploit these new opportunities if they are to achieve the economies of scale necessary to remain competitive and preserve their technical edge. Forward-looking companies, the study says, should consider now how best to respond. Strategic alliances or local manufacturing are possible responses. However, these will be open only to companies that ensure that they have competitive products that people want to buy.

The old attitude to exporting — a substitute for home sales during recession — will be inadequate. Rather, the report says, companies must invest in core research and develop-

ment, and in building an in-depth knowledge of, and commitment to, overseas markets. "For successful companies," the report says, "exporting is about long-term survival and profitability, not about short-term use of overcapacity."

What is true of companies, is true for the nation.

Winning the Export Race (CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1), price £20.

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft invites shareholders to the 41st ordinary general meeting on Friday, 17th March 1995, at 10.00 am, in the Mercator-Halle, König-Heinrich-Platz, Duisburg.

Agenda

1. Presentation of the adopted annual accounts of the Company and the Group, as well as of the management report on Thyssen AG and the Thyssen Group for the fiscal year 1993/94, together with the report of the Supervisory Board
2. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Executive Board
3. Resolution on the official approval of the acts and omissions of the Supervisory Board
4. Election of statutory auditors
5. Election of alternate Supervisory Board members
6. Approval of a direct-control and profit & loss transfer agreement with Thyssen Immobilien GmbH

According to Art. 13 of our company's memorandum and articles of association, such shareholders are entitled to participate in the Annual General Meeting as, on or before 10th March 1995, have deposited, and left there until the close of the Annual General Meeting, their shares with the depositary bank, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. in Great Britain.

Düsseldorf, February 1995

The Executive Board



THYSSEN AKTIENGESellschaft

LETTERS

Cost of business borrowing adds to inflation spiral

From Mr Peter R.F. Cooke
Sir, We, like many other businesses, provide the finance we need for our operation by way of overdraft; this being the most flexible way of borrowing money as we borrow the minimum amount we require on a daily basis.

The charge for our overdraft is calculated upon base rate plus. In the last six months, including the February 2 rise,

the cost of borrowing to this business has increased by 21%, whereas the cost of raw materials has increased by only 2% during the same period.

The Chancellor gave us his reason for increasing base rates, the upward pressure upon prices and in this business the component which is putting most pressure upon factory gate prices — which, in

turn, is leading to inflation — is the cost of borrowing.

In my view it is just common economic sense that any increase in the cost of borrowing will have the spiral effect of increasing inflation, and not the reverse.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R.F. COOKE,
The Oxy-Gas Group,
Kenmet Road,
Crayford, Kent.

High salaries reduce competition

From Mr P.R. Layton
Sir, In the long-running debate on high executive pay Mr Chadwick has vigorously attacked the argument that these salaries are needed to attract able persons to already filled posts (letters, February 1). It does not seem to have been pointed out, however, that in fact increases have (for the holders) the useful effect of decreasing competition. For

any post, no one with a present salary below a certain bracket will be regarded as a serious candidate. There are thus thousands of potential rivals for a post at £75,000, far fewer for one at £750,000.

Some years ago a prominent American businessman remarked, "It was only the first half of my career that was hard work. Above three million dollars a year there was remarkably little competition!"

Yours faithfully,
P.R. LAYTON,
Rocks Forge,
Main Road, Knockholt,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Choice of CBI study group questionable

From Mr Edmond Jackson
Sir, Regarding the CBI's Study Group on Directors Remuneration, it is interesting to note that seven out of the 11 members are directors of publicly quoted companies with combined salaries of £3.8 million last year, and 2.8 million share options. They enjoyed comfortable pay rises too. The salaries figure omits income

from other quoted companies where members of the group act as non-executive directors or deputy chairmen.

A lack of disclosure in the annual reports makes it impossible to determine exactly what these men earn in sum total. Nor is any value ascribed to their share options.

Is the study group fit to set standards on directors' remuneration? Executive pay inflation is now a real factor in dissuading people from share ownership, and many private investors are sceptical that share options foster a sense of partnership between company

owners and managers. Why has the CBI chosen a stockbroker to represent our interests, instead of a private investor association?

Yours faithfully,
Edmond Jackson,
Chenies,
Butlers Dene Road,
Woldingham,
Surrey.

0800 319 319

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0171 782 7826

HUMAN RESOURCES

£21,000

The newly appointed Human Resource Director of this world renowned organisation has an exciting opportunity for an energetic and flexible senior secretary.

computer planning strategies. A motivated mind is essential as there will be a high level of statistical analysis.

For further details please contact Angela Mortimer (Rex Conn). Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed. Call on 0171 724 8491.



Angela Mortimer

WEST END

The Managing Director of this highly successful International Executive Search firm requires a young, energetic, friendly PA to help run the office. This key role includes diary management, travel arrangements, office management and personal PA duties. A good telephone manner and organisational skills combined with a flexible, team attitude is essential for this involved position.

WPS.1, Typing 55 wpm

At least 4 years secretarial experience

Competitive Salary

Please apply by fax on 071 495 6983.

PA IN PUBLIC RELATIONS

£13,000

This prestigious, international holding company is looking for a PA to come and work alongside the group communications director.

This is a high profile support position in a fast moving and

communicating internally at a senior level. Excellent organisational

skills and a track record of meeting deadlines.

If you are between 25 and 30 and are free to travel and

have excellent shorthand and typing skills, please call

Kathy Liddle on 071 734 8055 for further details or fax

on 071 734 5175.

and communications skills are essential together with good attention to detail and an enthusiastic and willing approach.

You should have Shorthand and typewriting skills. (Rex Conn). For further details please contact Angela Mortimer (Rex Conn). Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed. Call on 0171 724 8491.



Angela Mortimer

EXCEPTIONAL SECRETARY

A high profile support role

These are exciting times for Historic Royal Palaces. With the approach of the millennium, plans are well underway for the Tower of London, and the four other palaces managed by this executive agency of the Department of National Heritage, to play a central role in the celebrations. The public profile of these and many other initiatives is the responsibility of a dedicated press and PR resource based at the Tower.

Essentially, the high calibre secretary we are now seeking will perform an all encompassing support role for our Director of Public Affairs. Fielding a wealth of press enquiries, co-ordinating hospitality and travel arrangements, helping to produce management information, keeping an eye on our media coverage, as well as tackling traditional office duties... it's a role to stretch even the most accomplished secretary.

Bright, articulate and enthusiastic, you will be comfortable thinking on your feet, as well as dealing confidently with people at all levels including public figures. At least three years' extensive secretarial experience, ideally in a similar press or PR environment, will have given you the ability to manage and organise the unpredictable, as well as remain cool under pressure.

This is a fixed term appointment of one year with the possibility of extension. The performance linked salary will start in the region of £15,000 and, in addition to the obvious attractions of working in such a highly visible environment, there are a number of other worthwhile benefits.

For more information and an application form write to: Historic Royal Palaces Agency, Personnel, Apartment 45, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AU. (24 hour answer phone 081-781 9770). Closing date: 20 February 1995.

Historic Royal Palaces is an equal opportunities employer

PA/Secretary to Head of Trading - £20K

Busy role supporting him and generally helping to organise the traders. Settling up meetings, lunches and dealing with roadshows, entertainment and expenses. Never a dull moment so you need to be quick-witted and very organised with good windows experience and fast typing.

Call us now on 0171 377 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5589.

CROSS SELECTION

Invest in your future! £22K Package

Leading Investment Bank needs a young secretary to work for a Director of Corporate Finance. You must be prepared to work long hours fairly regularly but anything over 9-5 is paid, so this is the money to be earned in overtime! This job also offers lots of variety and involvement plus good prospects. The offices are fantastic with in-house gym, pool, restaurant, etc. and situated just a few minutes from Liverpool Street.

Call us now on 0171 377 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5589.

CROSS SELECTION

HIGHER ASPIRATIONS!

SECRETARY/RESEARCH ASSISTANTS x2

Luxury Pk

£16,000 - £18,000 + benefits

Fabulous opportunity to break out of the traditional secretarial mould. If you

have Maths or Science 'A' levels, a

problem solving & enquiring mind and

1-2 years secretarial experience, this

could be your chance. Top

international Pk is looking for two

assistants to join its planning

department, with responsibilities

including gathering data for projects,

analysing and presenting findings and

presentation work using Excel &

PowerPoint. Good knowledge of Word

for Windows and 80 wpm typing are

essential.

SENIOR SECRETARY

£17,000 + banking benefits

A highly experienced secretary with

first class skills (100/60) is required to

work for a dynamic partner in this City

company. You will provide full

secretarial support in addition to

organising all its corporate hospitality.

Preferred age 25-40.

PARTNERS IN PERSONNEL

£22,000 + benefits

As a right hand partner to a terrific

personnel manager, you need to

have the flair to create and design

documents to extremely high

standards. You will possess a pacy

style, with the ability to cope with a

high volume of administration and

have excellent secretarial skills. The

team are fun but highly professional.

Knowledge of Word for Windows and

PowerPoint are essential as is a

minimum of 65 wpm typing.

Preferred age 25-34.

MORE THAN A SECRETARY

£17,500 + banking benefits

Dedication in the morning, organising

client entertainment in the afternoon,

arranging meetings and intricate travel

itineraries, apart from general

secretarial duties, will make your day.

If you think that you can juggle ten

things at once and still come out

smiling, this could be for you. 80 wpm

shorthand, 80 wpm typing are

essential. Preferred age 25-35.

BANKING SECRETARIES

£16,000 + banking benefits

If your aim is to make lots of

money, then this highly respected City

Bank can offer you a competitive

basic, all the overtime you can handle

and great perks. If you have formal

secretarial training and good skills,

80/50 minimum, then call us now.

Previous banking experience is NOT

essential.

PA TO GROUP COMPANY

SECRETARY

Blue Chip

£22,000 + benefits

Have you ever worked in a support

capacity to a Group Company

Secretary? This role requires a PA who

is able to constantly prioritise and

re-prioritise tasks; someone able to

handle pressure without fuss or panic

and who has the ability to build strong

working relationships with key people

in the organisation. Excellent

knowledge of Word for Windows and

spreadsheets are essential, with

shorthand being an advantage.

Preferred age 25-35.

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

Please call us on 0171-734 8484

TRADING FLOOR

£20,000 package

The successful Fixed Income Desk of this Triple A rated American

investment house require the theory and drive of an ambitious, team

mind secretary.

The role will be extremely demanding and will need a calm minded

operator. You will organise their correspondence, liaise with their

clients, attend syndicate meetings, organise roadshows and generally

help run their very successful business.

Three years' experience and 'A' level overall. Languages would

be useful.

For further details please contact Angela Mortimer (Rex Conn).

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All

applications are positively welcomed. Call on 0171 724 8491.

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BUDDING ACCOUNT HANDLERS!

£16,000

A young and fast growing marketing organisation requires an

ambitious secretary to co-ordinate the office activities. The role has

the scope to develop away from the secretarial side and eventually

into account handling.

For further details please contact Angela Mortimer (Rex Conn).

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All

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LANGUAGE

Team spirited
Energetic
Motivated
Proactive
Secretary

Does the above description reflect your qualities? With fluency in a main European language, up-to-date WP skills (W1 Windows or WP 5.1) and at least 50 wpm typing, our Multilingual Temporary Division pays top market rates for assignments in both West End and City. Please call Milica or Joanna on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

From Russia With Love

to £18,000 & Big Bens

007 and his team of dynamic investment managers require a bright and lively Miss Money Penny to ease their day! Your duties will include planning, liaising with the Head Office in the States and carrying out research. If you are extremely well organised, able to prioritise and would like to work in a growing company with an international flavour this could be your next mission! Skills: 60 wpm typing and WordPerfect for Windows are essential. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Young Guns!

£16,000 Age 21 - 28
Subsid Rest/Gym/BUPA

Large international Management Consultancy is looking for some young blood to join one of their sharp, dynamic teams. Use your excellent secretarial and organisational skills to cope with the demands of a hectic environment. Managing busy diaries, keeping track of consultants' whereabouts and preparing presentations will be just a few of your responsibilities. This position will certainly provide a challenge for a bright and enthusiastic secretary. 5 O' levels min/60 wpm/good Applesoft skills including powerpoint and excel. Please call Chloë on 0171-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

'Nine to Five'

£18,000 Age 25 +

Don't you deserve to be well looked after from 9 to 5? Now is your chance to work in the heart of the West End for a big, prestigious company who consider their staff to be the most important asset. In return for providing superb secretarial support to two senior managers, you will enjoy the luxury of stunning offices, delicious free lunches and straight hours. A knowledge of windows and English and Maths O' levels are essential. Age: 25-35. If it appeals then please call Fiona Mackay on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Back to the Future?

to £20,000 + banking bens

Reporting to the Chairman your boss is the brains behind the decisions in a major City Investment Bank. He is extremely bright and, supported by an MBA high-flyer, looks at Planning and Strategy for the firm. Your role involves full support - travel, diary scheduling, extensive 'phone work. Above all you need to be highly computer literate to prepare presentations, feasibility studies and analysis for the Board. With 100wpm shorthand, a City background, excellent IT skills including spreadsheets/graphics, A levels and a very agile mind, you could join the 'think tank'. Age 26-40. Call Sharon Leach on 0171 390 7000 for details.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Business Administration/ Office Support

A programme of change
is making an impact on our business. Will you?

to £15,000 & benefits - Chertsey, Surrey

For the MoD, as well as for an increasing number of prestigious commercial customers, the DRA provides research and technology development together with impartial advice. With visionary scientific teams working at the forefront of knowledge, this is a quality-driven, business-oriented culture.

This new culture is being facilitated by major organisational change. In the Land Systems Sector, the Director will need the vital support of a new team which, collectively, will manage all the non-scientific, day-to-day issues of business and office administration typical of a large business.

Within the team we're seeking two graduate-calibre executive assistants to take on a wide range of administrative and organisational roles. Working closely with the Office Manager and others in the team, and often dealing with external customers and suppliers, you must have strong interpersonal skills, meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to delivering a high quality

service. Familiar with PC systems and having the initiative to analyse and solve problems, you should have a proactive attitude and a genuine desire to make a real impact. Whilst some previous PA/Office Admin experience is an advantage, it is your personal qualities and potential which will be decisive.

As well as excellent career prospects, the DRA rewards ability with an attractive package including performance-related pay, non-contributory pension and generous holidays.

The DRA welcomes applications from suitably qualified people regardless of sex, marital status, race or disability. Please contact us for an application form, during office hours, quoting reference FV55. The Response Handling Service, Associates in Advertising, 5 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BH. Tel: 0171-251 5554. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 1st March 1995.



Defence Research Agency

Secretary - Fund Management

Attractive Package

City

UBS Asset Management London Limited is one of the UK's major institutional fund managers with over £40 billion of funds under management, and continues to enjoy an impressive record of profitable growth.

Due to expansion within the Property team, we are seeking an additional secretary to support our fund managers, dealing with UK based properties. This department currently numbers seven, comprising three property investment managers, three property management staff and one secretary.

You will provide a full secretarial service, including typing, organising diaries, co-ordinating travel arrangements and dealing with telephone enquiries.

The successful candidate will ideally be A Level educated including English Language at GCSE Level. Fast, accurate WP skills are essential. Previous audio typing experience is desirable and a knowledge of shorthand would be helpful.

This position requires good interpersonal skills and proven organisational ability, as well as the need to work effectively as part of a team. Property and/or City experience would be a distinct advantage.

In return, you will receive an excellent remuneration package. This includes a mortgage subsidy, private health cover, non-contributory pension scheme, interest free season ticket loan and discretionary performance award.

To apply, please write with full CV to:

Miss Lekki Frangou - Personnel Officer
UBS Asset Management London Limited
Triton Court
14 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1PD



PA TO CHAIRMAN - ADMINISTRATOR

c. £22,000 per annum

Powermark plc is the United Kingdom's largest direct reseller of upgrades for PCs, printers and workstations. The company has doubled its turnover each year for the past three years. This dynamic growth means we now need to recruit a senior secretary with office management experience.

The successful candidate will be expected to fulfil the dual role of PA to the chairman and manager of a team of four, handling secretarial and reception duties for the company.

He or she will also be present in MS Word, articulate, mature and personable. Some experience of managing people will also be necessary. Powermark people are the best in the computer industry. They work, train, learn and earn better than anybody else. Are you good enough to join the team?

Send CV or ring for application form:
Don Simon, Human Resources Manager, Powermark plc,
Premier House, 112 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7AQ.
Tel: 0181 951 3355 No Agencies

ASSISTANT NEGOTIATOR/ SECRETARY

For furnished lettings department of small professional office in Belgrave.

Must be energetic, self motivated and adaptable.

Contact: Sarah David
George Trollope
0171 824 8111

PA SECRETARY £20K + Bonus

This is a superb opportunity to assist a Managing Director who is looking for an organised, unflappable secretary. There will be frequent travel arrangements, meetings and itineraries to set up, together with plenty of interaction within this fast moving area. 90 wpm shorthand, 60 wpm typing, MS Word for Windows essential. Age 25-35. Please telephone 0171 828 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INVESTMENT PA £18K + Mort Subs

An involved position offering PA support to an international director. Proven administration skills and an ability to work on your own initiative preferred. This pressurised environment will suit a calm, well organised assistant who can develop the role. MS Word for Windows, Excel, 55 wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 828 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TOP TEMPS

With hourly pay rates of up to £10, loyalty bonus, paid bank holidays and cross training onto the latest systems, you know you are well looked after when you join our team of top calibre temporary secretaries and receptionists. So for immediate assignments in the City and West End please telephone Emma or Roberta on 0171 499 8070.

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONAL ASSISTANT c£20,000 aae

Unusual opportunity for a confident, articulate PA to work for two entrepreneurs based Regents Park/ Camden. A multi-skilled person possibly with one or two European languages, sourcing supplies internationally, occasionally working late to cover projects in different time zones. First Class secretarial skills essential, the freedom perhaps to travel, plus the willingness to turn hand to a variety of tasks. Initially employed on a temporary contract and therefore should ideally be available to commence work immediately. Age range 27-35.

Call Sue Doughty (Rec Con)

0171 491 7911

PUBLISHING £18,500 aae

In at the beginning! Major new force in business publishing with backing from giant PLC parent co, requires TWO secretaries to start ASAP. Both positions require proficiency on MS Word for Windows, one is for the company's newly appointed Legal Advisor (legal experience preferred), the other is for their Finance Director (also new). Benefits inc 5 wks hols. Immediate start preferred. Further info & interview:

Call Sue Doughty (Rec Con)

0171 491 7911

DYNAMIC DUO £12,000 - £14,000

Small but highly successful Co in W1 specialising in helping growing businesses to realise their potential, can help you to realise yours! Ideally you will have in the region of 6 months' work experience or be looking for your first job as a secretary. Working alongside the Chairman's PA, you will gain experience of a wide variety of tasks including corporate hospitality/ event organising, c50wpm typing essential.

Call Sue Doughty (Rec Con)

0171 491 7911

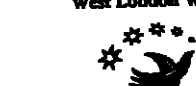
PA/OFFICE MANAGER c£17K WEST LONDON

As part of the world leading Gardner Merchant group of companies, we are committed to the very highest standards of client service and staff development.

An exciting new opportunity has arisen for a committed individual to join our team. As PA to the Divisional Director, you will provide an efficient support service at all times. In addition, you will take on a variety of office management responsibilities.

With excellent administrative skills, you will possess strong shorthand and typing ability (100 words per minute) and be an organised and competent communicator, with a mature attitude and personable manner.

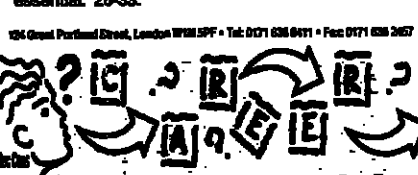
Please send your CV to Gill Vasey, Divisional Personnel Manager, Gardner Merchant Ltd., Boundary House, Boston Road, Havertree, West London W7 2AS.



GARDNER MERCHANT

career moves DEDICATED PA FOR VP-RECORD CO c£20,000

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The ideal candidate will have excellent telephone, organisational, word-processing (WordPerfect 5.1) and audio-typing skills as well as an ability to prioritise the workload and communicate at all levels. Previous experience in a research or medical environment would be advantageous.

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GALLERIES page 38
From boxes to
bedrooms: John Russell
Taylor reviews the latest
Paris exhibitions

ARTS

THEATRE page 39
The butler did it. But can
he do it again without
Dirk Bogarde? The
Servant is back on stage



We're just putty in their hands

Millions of adults
have discovered the
delights of
animation, thanks
to the success of
British animators.
Joe Joseph reports

Animation may not be the most glamorous branch of the British film business. It does not, for instance, provoke Dickie Attenborough to weep hot tears on the steps of Downing Street in pursuit of government handouts. And while Nick Park may have won Oscars for charting the adventures of his clay creatures Wallace and Grommet, it is hardly what you would call the Hollywood highlife: when your female lead is only nine inches high and made of Plasticine, the idea of a movie mogul casting couch is not just a little preposterous, it may be illegal.

But in spite of all this, British animation is booming. Adults in Britain have become keen watchers, not just of the recent half-hour series of Shakespeare-in-a-nutshell, or the similar alchemy worked on the six operas that are being aired on BBC2 from this Friday night. Wallace and Grommet, stars of Park's *The Wrong Trousers*, drew 9.5 million viewers on BBC1 on Christmas Day, 45 per cent of the audience. And foreign audiences have proved just as enthusiastic.

"If you go to any major international animation festival," says Colin Rose, executive producer of animation at the BBC, "Britain is seen as the place where the highest quality and most innovative work is going on."

Aardman Animation, the Bristol-based company for which Park works, has put together a subtitled, 90-minute compilation of three of Park's films — *A Grand Day Out*, *Capture Comforts* and *The Wrong Trousers*. It is filling cinemas in France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Finland. Naturally, even the big boys in California have started to notice.

"We are constantly approached from all around the world to get involved in projects," says Michael Rose, head of development at Aardman, a studio now well-known in the industry, "and in Hollywood. We get our phone calls returned. That's the ultimate success in the film business. It shows that you've arrived."

"There's an ingenuity, and a level of innovation in British animation that is unrivalled at the moment. There's been a shift in the culture. In the 1960s, animation was cartoons



Plasticine stars: almost ten million people tuned in to watch Nick Park's *The Wrong Trousers* on BBC1 on Christmas Day, a staggering 45 per cent of the audience

— Walt Disney, Warner Bros. Channel 4 came along and deliberately set out to commission adult animation. Animation has always had the capacity for that, but it's only in the last 10 to 15 years, through television, that the money has been available to exploit that."

Clare Kitson, who does the commissioning for Channel 4, says: "Britain is regarded as the best, without any doubt. Out of the last four years, Britain has won three Oscars for best animated film. But even in the year we didn't win, the majority of nominations were British. There's a new European prize, The Golden Cartoon, created three years ago. All three have been won by British animators."

"It's the most successful part of the British film industry. In terms of prizes, but it does still seem to be regarded as the poor relation to film. If you go to Russia,

animators there are part of the intelligentsia."

The economics of the television business have magnified the boom. Michael Shields, who used to develop and market children's animation for the BBC before setting up his own animated film company, called EVA, defines several structural reasons for animation's popularity over the past five years. "Financing of new productions has become more sophisticated, which has made co-financing much easier. There's more international collaboration. Compared with some other categories — live action in particular — animation lends itself to international markets because you only need to change the soundtrack and it looks like it's home-made. Also animation has a longer shelf-life. It goes out of date more slowly. And in the children's area, there is more opportunity to exploit related markets,

such as books, videos and toys."

But why has Britain benefited so handsomely? "Because there's an awful lot of creative talent in animation in Britain," says Shields. "There is a strong literary tradition here. Also the animated commercial industry is very vibrant and healthy. This allows a lot of animators and directors to make a commercial living, while still leaving time to make their own films."

Chris Grace of the Welsh television channel S4C, who has been the driving force behind the animated Shakespeares and also *Operavox*, the six-part series that has turned *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute*, *Rigoletto*, *Ringgold*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Turandot* into half-hour films using various animation techniques, is already turning the Bible into a dozen animated slices. Then

he dreams of tackling Chaucer. *Don Quixote*, Pushkin, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. "I'm aiming for a catalogue of over 50 half-hours by the end of the millennium. When we finish the Bible we'll have 30."

At the BBC Colin Rose feels that the corporation, although it came late on the scene, can chip in its expertise in bringing in "a heavy dose of script-editing discipline". He says: "The BBC have only been active in animation — for adults and family audiences as opposed to for children — since 1991. We persuaded Alan Yentob, who was then head of BBC2, that it was time to get into this area. It was a hunch. And I suppose that hunch has been justified by the 9.5 million who watched *The Wrong Trousers*."

Although Nick Park can now claim celebrity status there are others close behind him. Channel 4 is thrilled about a new short by

David Fine and Alison Snowden called *Bob's Birthday*, about a surprise party held for a 40-year-old dentist that goes horribly wrong. Chuck Jones, the famous American animator of Bugs Bunny and Road-Runner, this week chose the Manchester-based Cosgrove Hall animation team to work with him on a \$3.5 million animated film of *Peter and the Wolf*. The new Beatrix Potter films and Raymond Briggs's *Snowman* have also wooed children and parents to the screen.

Meanwhile, we wait for Park's next venture, called *A Close Shave*, another comedy thriller in which Wallace and Grommet set up a window cleaning business. It will be broadcast at Christmas. "There is a love interest for Wallace, called Wendolene," says Michael Rose. What, Plasticine rumpy-pumpy? "It contains rustling and porridge. That's all I can say at the moment."

Nations under a groove

MIAMI-BORN pianist Andrea Vicari describes her music as "essentially a rhythmic sound with many varied grooves: Latin, South African, very ECM-based. Melodic, with unusual harmonies." As a description of what listeners might expect to hear this could hardly be bettered.

Beginning this free lunch-time concert with two originals from her album of last year, *Train-in* — the jaunty *Bed Springs* and the harder-edged *You're Reported* — Vicari demonstrated the accuracy of each of the apparently incompatible tags "rhythmic" and "ECM-based".

Manfred Eicher's recording label ECM is generally regarded — not entirely fairly, it

must be said — as the home of lyrical, contemplative jazz. Its appeal is based more on subtle delicacy and nuance than on rhythm, and Vicari's deft, luminous piano sound would not, on the face of it, be wildly out of place there. But her music also has a robustness deriving from township music and salsa.

Although Vicari does, to a certain extent, embody both these ostensibly contradictory qualities in her playing, the power of her quartet's music comes more frequently from Mornington Lockett's stoney, passionate tenor.

Thus, in two pieces — *L'Orchestre des Fous* and the brisk, Latin-tinged *Pegasus* — Vicari was content to build her solos slowly and carefully, while the saxophonist provided a highly effective contrast, blustering his way through her tunes' changes and negotiating their often tricky time signatures with almost swaggering assurance.

But if the way in which the two main soloists complement each other is the band's most obvious attraction, it is the bright lucidity of Vicari's compositions which lingers in the mind. The suitability of her themes as vehicles for relatively straightforward blowing speaks a clarity of vision rare in so youthful a composer.

CHRIS PARKER

CINEMA: 'Splatter comedy' director Peter Jackson goes legit (nearly) with *Heavenly Creatures*

There is an irony here. Peter Jackson, director of arguably the most tasteless films ever released in Britain, has just produced a mainstream work of astonishing emotional resonance and complexity. Already the recipient of the Silver Lion at last September's Venice Film Festival, the director's fourth film, *Heavenly Creatures*, has attracted critical acclaim from Auckland to Washington. This week the film arrives in London, stamped with an 18 certificate.

Jackson, a New Zealander who finds humour in the most unexpected of places, is not amused. "The idea that nobody under the age of 18 can see *Heavenly Creatures* in Britain is totally ludicrous," he says. "In Australia and New Zealand anybody can get in to see it. The film has one murder which is neither condoned nor glorified. If anything, it depicts murder as a terribly sad event: something, I would have thought, the censor would welcome. The 18 certificate is obviously a knee-jerk reaction to the social and economic problems of your country."

More to the point, it is remarkable that Jackson's three previous films — *Bad Taste*, *Meet the Feebles* and *Braindead* — received distribution in Britain at all. Bulldozing the depths of acceptability, Jackson's 'splatter comedies' left no sacred cow unslaughtered. In *Bad Taste* an alien feeds on a skull; in *Braindead* a baby is reduced to mucus in a blender. But, while *Heavenly Creatures* deals with one of the most sensational murders in New Zealand history, it investigates the psychological nuances of the case rather than the lurid ones. In 1954 Pauline Parker, a 16-year-old New Zealand schoolgirl, and Juliet

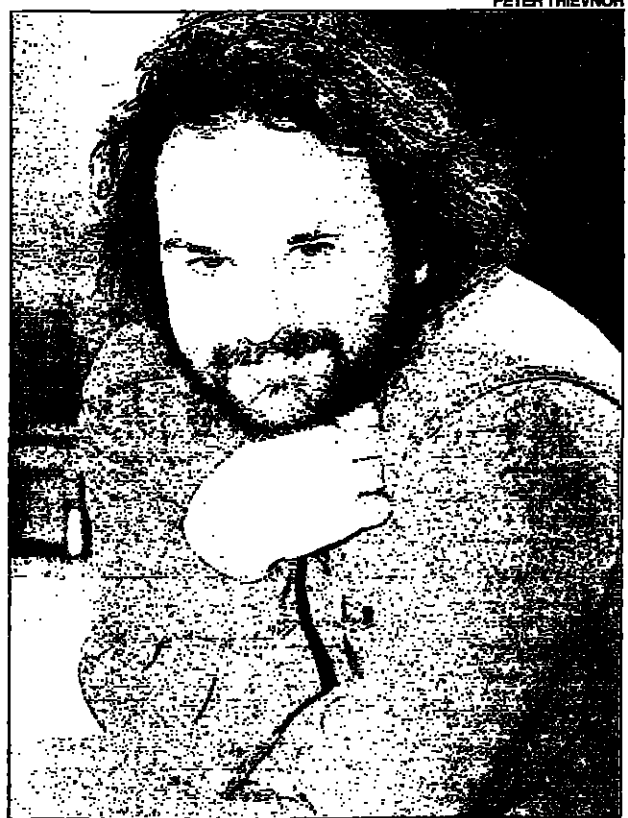
Natural-born culler

Hulme, 15, her inseparable English soulmate, bludgeoned Pauline's mother to death. The motive: to prevent Mrs Parker from separating the two girls who had, she felt, become "unwholesomely" close.

At the time, the tabloid press painted the girls as indefensible killers and made much of their so-called "lesbian" relationship. But the film chooses to scout the extraordinary kinship that set Pauline and Juliet apart from their family and classmates, and explores the fertile, imaginary "fourth world" that they inhabited. With Jackson behind the camera, this commendable approach came as an enormous surprise to many and as a great relief to others.

"I still have as much of a healthy interest in splatter films as I did two or three years ago," Jackson says. "But the point of my earlier films was to make people laugh — never, ever to horrify. However, it was obviously inappropriate to tell the Parker-Hulme story in that fashion. *Heavenly Creatures* was an attempt to make an accurate version of what happened before and up to the murder."

"There's been a mythology perpetuated over the years that Pauline and Juliet were somehow evil. They obviously were at the moment that they killed Pauline's mother; but what was never examined was the pressure they were under. "Glamorising the killing was the last thing I wanted to do. I thought briefly about not showing the murder at all, and putting an explanatory caption across the screen. But then I thought that might be responsible for turning them into martyrs. To show the girls



Peter Jackson: "I still have a healthy interest in splatter films"

in a sympathetic light and then not show the horror of what they had done would be letting them off the hook."

"Of course, you can't make fun of a real person being murdered. Even I have to draw the line somewhere. But I think my sense of humour is apparent. I made fun of aspects of the friendship between the two girls. Because it was funny. Certain entries in Pauline's diary reveal the humour that the two girls shared."

Until recently, Jackson had little experience directing actors. On his first film, *Bad Taste*, he and his mates pitched in to play a variety of hicks and aliens, while on *Feebles* he had only a cast of puppets to supervise. On *Braindead* his actors had little to do other than circumnavigate the latex and ketchup. But *Heavenly Creatures* is distinguished by some first-rate acting.

"You have to make it real for the actors," Jackson says.

"When the girls [played by newcomers Melanie Lynskey and Kate Winslet] are crying on screen, they're not acting tears, they're crying about things that really made them upset. Towards the end of the film Melanie had to have this hatred radiating out of her eyes. But Melanie's not a hateful person. So Sarah Peirse, who plays Pauline's mother, would take Melanie off the set and scream at her. Then she'd lead her back and Melanie's face would be flushed and her eyes would be shining with this intensity. Then we'd roll the cameras."

While it is tempting to speculate that Jackson has achieved his entrée to Hollywood on the co-tails of *Heavenly Creatures*, it is not so. The filmmaker was already in talks with Robert Zemeckis, director of *Forrest Gump*, before his new picture was released. In fact, Zemeckis is such a fan of Jackson's earlier work that he is involved with producing his next film. This is *The Frighteners*, which Jackson describes as "a supernatural black comedy action-thriller".

The collaboration of Zemeckis and Fox demonstrates how far Jackson has come in the past decade. *Bad Taste*, originally conceived as a ten-minute short, was, for the most part, filmed completely mute on a spring-drive Bolex over a four-year period. During that time two of the stars became engaged, married and had children. Another retired, one divorced and another died.

Jackson himself celebrated four birthdays — all, appropriately enough, on Halloween.

JAMES CAMERON WILSON

● *Heavenly Creatures* is released on Friday, and reviewed tomorrow

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Can we do you now, sir?

After nearly 30 years, the stage version of *The Servant* returns, fully and finally out of the closet. Joseph Williams reports

Sinister, creepy, weird: adjectives often applied to Joseph Losey's 1963 film, *The Servant*. The chilling screen-play, written by Harold Pinter, had Dirk Bogarde as the unctuous manservant, Barrett, James Fox as Tony, his weak, handsome, upper-class master, and Sarah Miles as the nymphomaniac Vera, invited by Barrett into the household to corrupt Tony and oust his fiancée.

But, just as Barrett eventually takes complete control of Tony, so the film itself has taken over the original 1948 novel, and a 1950s stage version, which is hardly ever performed in Britain.

Both novel and play were written by a raffish, bisexual former British Army officer: Robin Maugham, nephew of the writer Somerset Maugham. Far from evoking the decadent Chelsea of the 1960s, the original *Servant* was set in the 1940s, when servants were much more common.

Birmingham Repertory is mounting the first production of the play since the 1960s, restoring the original flavour. "Maugham's parents didn't want him to publish the novel at all," says Bill Alexander, the director of Birmingham Rep's production. "They thought it was a disgusting and sinister piece of work with all kinds of subsexual implications."

"There is a subtext into which the film doesn't really go. It's to do with the exact nature of the relationship between the characters in the play, which Losey didn't try to explore in the film."

"We're making this production as much as possible about an emerging and peculiar relationship between the two central men, rather than, as the screenplay made it, a very Pinteresque piece of takeover — of territory being hijacked by one character from another."

"On a more universal level, it's to do with dependency and servitude and dominance: themes that never go away."

Alexander believes there is "a strong homoerotic subtext to it. It wasn't talked about; it was all illegal then. Maugham was told: 'You'll never get this on either stage or screen: people won't take it.' The sexuality is quite explicit, which made it a bit of a sensation in 1948, and led people to believe it could

never be presented in a more public form."

Maugham based the character of Vera on a teenage girl who once seduced him in a wood, and Barrett on a servant — "softly moving and soft-voiced" — who made Maugham shudder as he entered a room.

Bryan Connors, who is writing a biography of the Maugham family, says: "Robin was a member of the upper class, and I'm not sure that we have a distinct equivalent today. He was very much the heroic young

officer, a veteran of the Desert War against Rommel. In the novel he was writing about the sort of people he mixed with. It's evocative of a whole type of lifestyle that's now gone."

Connors believes that the play is essentially "a battle of the sexes and a battle for power", and

has nothing to do with a struggle between the upper-middle class and the working class.

"Tony is a veteran of the war in the Far East. His fiancée is a childhood sweetheart who realises he has little interest in her sexually. She opts out, goes off and gets married. So it's really a battle for the soul of Tony between Richard Merton, who is his best and closest friend, and Barrett."

Maugham was well aware that the Obscene Publications Act hovered, happy-like, over the play, so he could never be explicit on stage. But *The Servant* played at Worthing in 1958, and at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, in 1966. People walked out at Worthing, a respectable Sussex seaside resort. After all, this was before the scandal of the Penguin publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*: it was a time when people could be prosecuted for mentioning explicit sexual acts.

"We tend to forget how restricted and controlled the arts actually were at that time," Connors says. "It all had to go through the Lord Chamberlain's office. Today, the production can put back nuances it would never have got away with back then."

He thinks *The Servant* is strongly autobiographical: "The upright Merton represented the good in Robin; Tony represented sexual ambivalence; and Barrett the evil."

The film dropped the Merton character, but Pinter's dialogue



The love that did not even come close to speaking its name: Dirk Bogarde and James Fox in Joseph Losey's film of *The Servant*

captures the unease of the original novel. Its theme of domination — with a sado-masochistic element in the master-servant relationship — reminds one of Strindberg's *Miss Julie*, where the valet sexually mesmerises Miss Julie, or Jean Genet's *The Maids*, with its perverse role-reversal, or Pinter's own sinister games of bullying in *The Birthday Party*.

But William Lawrence, executor of the Maugham estate and a close companion of the writer until the latter's death in 1982, says of *The Servant*: "It seems obvious to me that there is an underlying sexuality between the master and the servant that was missed out in the film. I'm well aware that Bogarde has said it

didn't even enter his head that there could have been a homosexual connotation to it; but having reread the novel and the play, and watching it in rehearsal at Birmingham, it seems clear that that was Maugham's intention. But he did it very subtly."

Lawrence argues that in the play, Vera and Mabel (another woman procured for the master by Barrett) act as a sexual conduit for the relationship between Tony and Barrett: "It's such an obvious interdependence," he says. He thinks the play "wins a spell because it contains this quality of the corrupting influence, which is just as relevant in the 1990s".

Clearly, Maugham was angry at

society's taboos: "He believed that we were all basically bisexual, and that we choose our path."

Ambiguity hangs like a skein over *The Servant*. Vera is described by Maugham as "seemingly demure" — she then swiftly displaces Tony's childhood sweetheart — and Barrett is by turns cringing and insolent. Even by the time of the film, sexual acts could only be hinted at, and homosexuality was illegal. But by today's standards, where virtually anything goes, *The Servant* seems innocuous. Perhaps its very subtlety makes it more interesting than the vulgarity of some contemporary works, where every fourth word seems to have four letters.

But did Bogarde find Barrett a challenging role at the time? "I didn't know what the hell it was all about," he says. "I had never read Pinter before. 'Was it baffling?' No. People make such a fuss about it all. It's nothing. It was the funniest black comedy I've ever been in, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Now it's becoming a cult and everyone's running around making stupid remarks about it." And the darker side? "I don't know what the hell they're talking about. It was simply one character taking over from the other."

But he admits: "I'm jolly glad they're still talking about it." *The Servant* opens on Friday at Birmingham Rep (0121-236 4455)

Powerful effects without cause

Michel Vinaver is a French dramatist who rejects 2,000 years of theatrical tradition. Preparing for a London first night, he tells Jeremy Kingston why



Vinaver: "the plurality of viewpoints and meanings"

of cause and effect, on which theatre has been built for 2,000 years and more.

"Theatre has tended to work like a machine. You push one button and this happens. I'm

more interested in landscape than in machine-theatre, and landscape is something where the spectator moves about and discovers various aspects of reality."

Thinking back over the plays of his staged in this country — *A Smile on the End of the Line* and *Situation Vacant* at the Orange Tree, *The Television Programme* at the Gate — I remember the bursts of laughter provoked by this technique of multiple viewpoints.

"I think it's inseparable from comedy because incongruities of all kinds result from putting together things that don't fit together. *Portrait* is about a murder and there is no ambiguity about the murder itself. Who's done it, in what circumstances. The court is trying to construct the body of motivations behind it — what has caused this girl to murder that boy — and the play is about the failure of the court to advance along that path."

"There is a chasm between the fiction that the court constructs and the reality of what has happened, which the girl

herself has no explanation for. So that in this particular case the chain of cause and effect simply exists in the imagination of the defence counsel, the prosecutor, the presiding judge and the witnesses; what the accused says and does, in no way relates to what the court expects."

"So the various people in the court get infuriated and really aggressive vis-à-vis the accused, because she doesn't show why she's done it. I mean, that is her biggest crime. She is simply at a loss to say why."

I ask if the audience will know. "There are fragments of reasons. There is a metaphor in the play when she tells her boyfriend that she loves pebbles. She picks up a pebble from the beach and says that in order to know what's inside the pebble you have to break it. And then there's no more pebble."

Portrait of a Woman previews from tomorrow and opens next Tuesday at the Orange Tree, Clarence St, Richmond (0181-940 3633)

CHALLENGING productions like that are particularly welcome in comparison with such tame and fussy stagings as Lorenzo Mariani's recent *Rigoletto* in Monaco and Gilbert Blin's new *Lakmé* at the Paris Opéra-Comique. Both of these are saved, however, by some remarkable performances. The Opéra de Monte Carlo (which more or less discovered Alagna at the international level) presented an excitingly fearless Duke of Mantua in Tito Beltrán and an inspired Rigoletto in Leo Nuoci, who combined dramatic understanding with spontaneity.

The star of the *Lakmé* production is neither the Orchestre Symphonique Français nor the chorus of the Opéra-Comique, competently conducted though they are by Frédéric Chastien. Happily, in such a demanding role, it is Anita Dessay as Lakmé herself. The applause following her Bell Song must have lasted at least three minutes, a long time in mid-act. For sheer vocal brilliance at high pitch levels and for seductive colouring in more normal soprano registers she must be unique among singers today.

GERALD LARNER

CONCERTS: Bruckner takes second place to a brilliant rendition of Beethoven by a Taiwanese violinist; a poignant dedication to young victims of war

Noble sound of seventh heaven

Philharmonia/
Sanderling
Festival Hall

slow movement, of which the validity is disputed anyway. Otherwise we heard a clear account of the work's inner and outer detail, and a grandeur of spirit.

It was a broad, expansive, spaciouly shaped performance, about ten minutes over the hour's duration usually

ascribed to it. But a Bruckner symphony takes as long as it takes, and measuring it by the clock does scant respect to the depth and richness of the experience it offers. Its noble proportions can engulf the listener even more completely than it did on this occasion, although Sanderling steered a course that was vivid without being pressured.

Earlier, he provided steady support in Beethoven's Violin Concerto for Cho-Liang Lin, who stepped in at short notice when Kyung-Wha Chung be-

came ill. So Korean origins were exchanged for Taiwanese, but offering equally instinctive artistry. The violinist was in command of his technique to the highest degree, and I would love to know what make of violin he played to make the solo lines so captivating.

Right from his first entry, his tone was beautifully clear and silvery, the phrasing poised on a feeling for rhythm that was continuously beguiling. He could fine down the tone to the merest thread without weakening its tensile quality, and although the orchestra was apt to seem stilted in the slow movement, the soloist's sense of weight and shade was always affecting.

NOEL GOODWIN

Spare notes for the little children

BBCSO/Nelson
Festival Hall

In fact, for all its lack of substance and its overdone rhetoric, his *Light Sorrow*, given its British premiere by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under John Nelson last Sunday, turned out to be a touching ritual dedicated to children, the victims of war. When not absorbed with quiet intonations sung by two solo boy singers (the excellent David Newman and Samuel Burke), it explodes in shocking outbursts of orchestral

activity: two contrasting emotions, sorrow and anger, simply expressed. The words, taken from the Georgian poet Galaktion Tabidze, Goethe, Shakespeare and Pushkin, exhort the idea of rebirth, the value of love, hope in tragedy; but they are interrupted by the cry of the frustrated poet: "Oh, if only my voice could move their hearts". Then, in a *cœur de théâtre* as visual as it is sonic, the New London Children's Choir fills the stage, singing the Alleluis of the innocents. It was hard not to be moved.

Nelson engaged the BBCSO and his young charges with an admirable sense of timeless

poise. But another work about innocence, Mahler's Fourth Symphony, seemed affected by these spacious deliberations. Although Nelson, conducting without a baton, invested its first movement with imagination and commitment, thereafter the orchestra's energies flagged. It was all perfectly acceptable but, at least until Sylvia McNair stood to deliver the final song, *Das himmlische Leben*, with her usual beautiful sound, and an irresistible presence, this was the kind of performance that music critics dread: simply unremarkable.

STEPHEN PETTIT

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Formal registrations of interest, on an area by area basis, are required by February 28 1995. Detailed stock profiles, specifications and maps will be forwarded on a ballot area basis to landlords who have registered interest. Landlords will be requested to submit their outline proposals for acquiring stock, based on this detailed specification package, by April 18 1995.

To obtain an overview package, write to, fax, or telephone:
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This could be thine, dear Valentine

Looking for a spectacular way to impress a loved one? Mary Wilson offers some suggestions

There are only six days to go to Valentine's Day — the time of year to send *billets doux* and gifts to your loved one. If walls could speak, how many tales would they be able to tell of undying love murmured on bedded knees, secret trysts behind closed doors and ardent words uttered in passion?

Even houses have been bought as Valentine's presents. As happened recently with a pretty mews cottage in west London. Antoine Luror of the London Mews Company says: "We have just sold a four-bedroom mews house to a gentleman who has bought it for his girlfriend without her knowing."

A four-bedroom house in Chepstow Place, west London, was the scene of unrequited love. It was there that Robert Louis Stevenson stayed with Fanny Sitwell in 1873, after he had left his family home in Edinburgh. He was only 23 years old, long before his literary career took off, and they were renting rooms at the house.

Sitwell encouraged Stevenson to write and it was said that he fell in love with her. But she was in love with Sidney Colvin, whom she later wed. Colvin also encouraged Ste-



The 15th-century Netherby Hall is immortalised in *Marmion*, a poem written by Sir Walter Scott about the "brave young Lochinvar's" battle for a bride

venson to pursue a writing career. Chesterton's Residential is offering the Grade II listed four-bedroom house for £425,000.

The 15th-century Netherby Hall is immortalised in *Marmion*, a

poem Sir Walter Scott wrote, in which brave young Lochinvar rides, unarmed, to whisk away Lady Heron, before she can wed another.

So boldly he entered the Netherby Hall Among brides-men and kinsmen and brothers all. Cried "O come ye in peace or come ye in war, or to dance at our bridal, young Lochinvar!"

The hall began its life as a fortified tower house built to withstand the frequent attacks that were a feature of life in the Border country in the 14th and 15th centuries. A splendid example now of Scottish baronial architecture, it has a three-storey entrance tower with carved coat of arms, and a

carved stone knight in armour who guards the front door.

The property, which is near Carlisle in Cumbria, has just been restored and is being sold with two cottages and 32 acres of grounds for £850,000 by Jackson-Stops & Staff's London office.

In Petworth, West Sussex, a house is on the market called Petifers, the name of the Huguenot nobleman for whom it was built in 1490. Many years later, it was owned by the Dawrey family, and bought by the square, who was obviously a devoted husband because he bought it so that his wife could winter in a big house in the centre of town within easy reach of the church and shops. Browns of Cranleigh is selling the five-bedroom house with Tudor

fireplaces, inglenook fireplace and walled garden for £425,000.

Peartree Cottage in St John's Wood, was a lodge and coach house reputedly built by the Prince Regent, later George IV, for Mrs Fitzherbert, his mistress, in the late 1700s. Though in central London, it is still a secluded hideaway with a walled 120ft garden and ornamental lily pond. Lassman's is selling the four-bedroom house for £1.55 million.

And in Isley, Hampshire, Woolley & Wallis of Ringwood is selling — for £249,000 — a thatched four-bedroom house with an acre and a half, which was reputedly bought by Nelson for his mistress, Josephine.

In Churt, Surrey, a fascinating house is to be found which was once the property of Frances Ste-

venson — Lloyd George's secretary, before he married her in 1943. She bought the site, which Lloyd George chose, on his estate in 1936 and built the house with £2,000 given to her by Lloyd George.

The house is called Avalon, and is set in apple orchards. Miss Stevenson first lived in the house with her sister. After Lloyd George's wife died, he married her and they went to live in Wales.

After his death, Lady Lloyd George returned to Avalon, with her sister and daughter and stayed there until 1963, when the current owners fell in love with the house and bought it.

The house is unusual. The position and views are magnificent and the house has a flat roof and its timber-clad inside and out. It has a delightful informal holiday feel about it, which attracted Red and Jerry Shireley, an American couple, more than 30 years ago. After they bought the house from the Dowager Countess, they remained friends with her until her death.

Nine acres of meadowland have been reclaimed from the orchards and since the trees have been removed, thousands of poppies and wildflowers have emerged. They must have lain dormant for 80 years. John D. Wood is selling the four-bedroom house with tennis court, heated swimming pool and 27.5 acres for £650,000.



Avalon: strong connections with Lloyd George



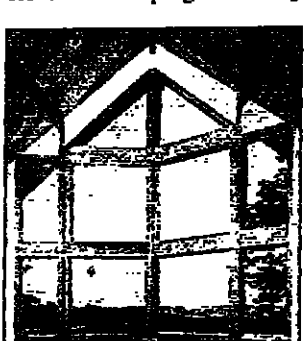
Peartree Cottage: reputedly built for a king's mistress

Timber homes are popular in the United States. But will we learn to love them?

A rare chance to buy at an exclusive address

Living an American dream

For all the tight spaciousness of many American homes, it seems the British public have to be encouraged to appreciate homes designed across the pond.



A Lindal interior

Jonathan Cobb, who is offering for sale houses designed by Timberpeg Rust and Beam Homes, an American offshoot, is finding it difficult to convince his new market to buy his self-build homes. He says: "This sort of product is far more acceptable in Scandinavia. In the UK, there is quite an attitude barrier to be overcome. I am hoping eventually

to sell 25 homes a year." He has discovered that most of the people who show an interest in building one of these homes, himself included, find it difficult to acquire the right piece of land. "I want to build a show home in Hertfordshire," says Mr Cobb, "but I might be forced to look further afield because I cannot find the right plot."

Self-builders are increasingly finding this a problem. In the past year, more than 25,000 houses were built by their owners, and competition for plots is fierce. The land represents up to half the total cost of a self-build house.

These American homes are built on a traditional post-and-beam method, like that used in Elizabethan timber-frame houses. But because modern engineering designs the strength in the frame, ceilings can be as high as you like, and internal configurations are flexible. Many British self-build kit companies use this construction method but internally, their products, do not, in my view, compare.

Timberpeg (0777 841957) is one of a couple of companies that have recently started selling American-style houses in this country. It has four homes



An American-style Lindal house: £209,000

under construction around the country, from Bembridge, Isle of Wight to Liversham, Dorset, with designs costing between £100,000 and £1 million.

Shirley and Bill Belling, who live in Hertfordshire, are buying a plot of land on the Norfolk coast to build a 1,750 sq ft house, which will cost about £120,000, including a £3,000 kitchen and two £1,000 bathrooms.

Mrs Belling says: "We have spent quite a lot of time in America, and have many friends living in this type of timber-framed house. We love their spaciousness and the height of the ceilings. They are light and airy and you can add to them easily."

"We looked at the self-build companies in this country, but their designs looked too much like those for an ordinary house."

The Bellings will build their

house with a brick and flint exterior so it blends in with the countryside. But inside it will be totally different from any other house in Norfolk.

The houses are built of Douglas fir and pine. The package, which is sent over from New England, in containers, includes all insulation, the timber frame and roof tiles. It also includes windows, doors, all nuts and bolts, but not heating, lighting, plumbing, partition walls or exterior skin.

Mr Cobb says: "What we are not aiming our product at is people who want to build a £200,000 house for £100,000. Our ideal customer would be someone wanting to spend about £250,000."

Another company, Lindal Cedar Homes (0949 842551), has been building houses in

Canada and the United States since 1968. It has built three in Britain — one near Grantham, Lincolnshire, and two in Scotland, in Speyside and in the Orkneys, where the purchaser needed a house strong enough to withstand the appalling weather.

Brian Keightley-Hanson, who is running the British end of the company, has built the house in Grantham. "It is all about utilisation of space and use of energy," he says. "My house is 2,500 sq ft and it costs £400 a year to heat. When I retired, my wife and I decided to build a house for ourselves. We looked in Scandinavia, Canada, the UK and the States, and eventually decided on this one."

The Keightley-Hanson's house has cost them £120,000 to build, excluding the land. The open-plan ground-floor area has three ceiling heights and two floor levels, providing a sense of divisions.

It has maple and beech floors, a gallery, four bedrooms and a state-of-the-art heat-exchange system "because of the tall ceilings," says Mr Keightley-Hanson. "We can gather up the hot air and re-use it. It also keeps down dust levels."

He has 100 designs to choose from in a lavish catalogue. Once the design is agreed on, the company arranges for the foundations to be built, orders the framework from Seattle, where the timber is grown, and oversees erection by a local builder.

As with Timberpeg, electric, plumbing and internal fixtures and fittings are not supplied.

MARY WILSON

Two of London's grandest addresses are up for sale. Numbers 115 and 12 Eaton Square, on the market for £4.5 million and £6.75 million respectively, are two of only 11 remaining houses in a square dominated by flats. The Grosvenor Estate says it is unprecedented for two houses to come up for sale at the same time in what is probably the capital's smartest address.

Residents include the Duke of Westminster, Lord Howard de Walden, Viscount Rothermere, the Countess of Lichfield, Roger Moore, and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. The Belgian and Bolivian Embassies are also there.

Number 12 is arranged as three maisonettes. Jane Sanders, the estate's marketing director, says an application to convert the maisonettes back to a house would be sympathetically considered.

Anthony Lassman, of the estate agents Lassman, which is selling number 115, says: "The house is on the preferred north side of the square, over-



12 Eaton Square: £6.75 million

A place in Eaton Square

looking the gardens. It forms part of what was the first division of the square built around 1830.

The six-floor house needs complete refurbishment and has a drawing and dining room, six bedrooms, four bathrooms, five cloakrooms, a library and a wine cellar.

The north side of the square has become more exclusive, because of its inhabitants, who include the Rothschilds. Houses on the north side have more impressive pillars and porticoed entrances, and terraces and main rooms that face south over the gardens. The Lloyd Webbers are just one of the famous families living on the south side of the

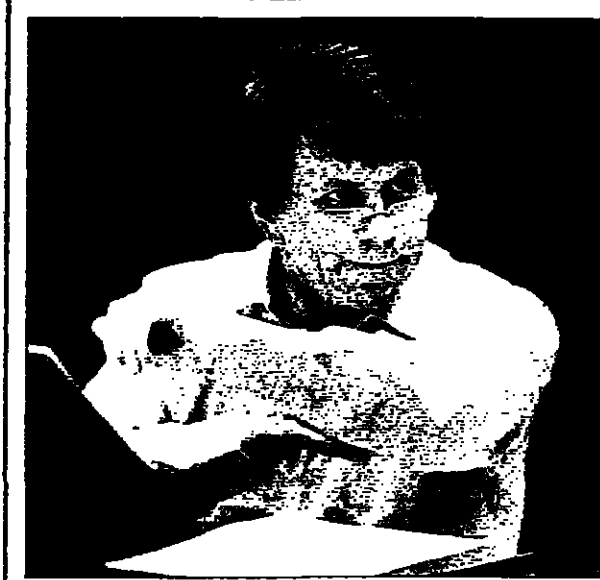
square. Estate agents disagree on whether it is smarter to own a house or a flat. Mr Lassman says: "A first-floor flat on the north side of the square is unquestionably the most sought-after type of property. These flats have high ceilings and balconies, good entertaining rooms and staff accommodation and an extensive master bedroom suite and guest suite."

Such a flat with three or four bedrooms, in good condition on a standard 20-year lease would cost about £2 million, Mr Lassman says. On the south side, the same flat would be worth £1.5 million.

Eaton Square was named after Eaton Hall, Cheshire, and built by Thomas Cubitt, an architect of modest beginnings who returned a title from Queen Victoria and became the unofficially acclaimed "emperor of the building trade" in the 1830s and 1840s. His project is flanked by the classical St Peter's Church.

RACHEL KELLY

THE TIMES



Interpreting Haydn: principal conductor Raymond Leppard

Orchestra plays for 20p

Go to a concert and you can take a friend for the cost of Britain's greatest newspaper. The English Chamber Orchestra is one of 40 orchestras and ensembles in *The Times* concert ticket offer. At more than 150 concerts in 40 halls all over the country you can take a guest for just 20p.

The orchestra is presenting two concerts at the Barbican in London to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Haydn's final visit to the capital. The programmes, conducted by Raymond Leppard, include Haydn's last two London symphonies and works by his contemporaries, Mozart and Viotti. Stephanie Gonley plays Viotti's violin concerto in A minor on February 22 and Imogen Cooper plays Mozart's piano concerto No 15 in B flat on February 28. You can also see the ECO at the Cliffs Pavilion in Southend, Essex on March 11 when the programme includes works by Greig, Handel, Holst and Mozart.

A full list of concerts available in London was printed in yesterday's paper and a full regional listing will be printed next Tuesday.

To book your 20p tickets collect six of the tokens we will be publishing over the next two weeks and then choose your concert. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 20p.



Planning a concrete countryside

Over the next 16 years, more than 1.7 million homes will need to be built in the southern counties. Are the Government's figures correct?

The future of the most desirable parts of England is being decided amid fears that a flood of housebuilding will change the face of the country. About three million homes have been planned in the next 16 years, of which 1.7 million are being allocated to the southern shires — the 26 rural counties that are the essence of England.

So far, most development has simply been tacked on to existing settlements. How much more can be absorbed without destroying the character of historic towns, villages or countryside? The demand for decent housing is rising fast because of demographic changes, such as the break-up of families that has led to a proliferation of households.

The Rural White Paper announced last October will attempt to deal with some of the perplexing issues affecting the English shires. It is a timely co-operation between the Departments of Environment and Agriculture aided by the fact that William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, was formerly Environment Secretary, and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was Agriculture Minister.

The paper's authors have a

huge remit to digest before they publish next summer. They will consider every aspect of planning policy: rural services such as village schools, hospitals, post offices, transport, and the rural economy, perhaps even whether the set-aside policy might mean the release of hallowed grade A and B agricultural land for house building.

They will look at the effect of existing government policies to see if they are going the right way or if they are pulling in the same direction. Views were invited from interested parties by January 20.

Mr Gummer says: "We're drawing up a positive strategy to take us into the next century. Rural life isn't set in aspic and there is a lively debate about how change is affecting those who live and work in the countryside."

The Government's housing numbers are contentious. Some say the 1991 figure of 2.8 million dwellings, which local authorities have been asked to approve by 2011, are too high. Others think they are too conservative. Berkshire is rebelling against its allocation

of 40,000 which have to be approved by 2006, saying it can only accommodate 37,000 in its structure plan, and Hampshire was reluctant to accept its allocation of 92,000. Housing demand is being fuelled by demographic changes rather than by population growth, Michael Breheny, Professor of Geogra-

phy at Reading University, says. "In the Eighties, population growth was 3 per cent, but the increase in households was 15 per cent and that's expected to continue," he says.

"Some say the Government's figures are realistic and the consequences of ignoring them are horrendous. The projections are extrapolations of the past, and all the previous ones were underestimates. What are the consequences of not coping with this?"

"This White Paper will explore the need to protect the countryside, the need for economic development and diversification, the relationship between cities and the countryside. These are vital issues that will affect us all in profound ways."

Rural economics are a central issue. How can agricultural workers on £160 a week afford to live in the country when well-heeled city people are moving in and pushing up property prices?

A survey of Mere, Wiltshire, just laid before Wiltshire Community Council, suggests that they cannot. It found that the average pay for townspeople aged up to 40 was £159 a week, but 52 per cent earned under £140 a week. The highest price they could pay for a property would be £28,280 if there was

one earner in the family, but two-bedroom houses in the pretty town start at £40,000. Even on a low rent of £60 a week a household of four with an income of £180 a week, including benefits, cannot meet the basic cost of living.

So wider planning issues are also crucial. The Council for the Protection of Rural England is keen for people to stay in cities, which, it says, should be made more attractive to live in, for example by subsidising public transport to cut traffic. Surveys show most city dwellers long to move to the country.

"It's where people want to live that's a problem," Tony Burton, the director, says. "About 300 people a day have left our cities in the past 20 years."

"We can't all move there. Too few small homes are being built and too many large luxury houses go on greenfield sites. An area of countryside the size of Greater London has been lost in the South East. If we keep building at this level, by 2050 an area larger than Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and

the Isle of Wight will be unrecognised."

The Countryside Commission and the Town and Country Planning Association favour the creation of new towns to avoid the over-development of old ones. David Hall, the association's director, says: "It doesn't mean we have to have terrible devastation of the countryside. Towns can be located away from sensitive areas but near good road and rail links. You need to make them a size that enables them to swallow their own snake by providing jobs, shops and services for residents, which means at least 10,000 dwellings."

Ray Green, vice-chairman of the Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages and treasurer of the TCPA, despairs of the present policy of new development being added to settlements incrementally, making historic towns "little gems surrounded by mediocrity."

"A new concept must be evolved or we will go on building around our beautiful towns and wreck them. A protection area should be thrown around them. We need to look at the issues and come up with some new ideas."

CHRISTINE WEBB

Potential champion is main attraction of marketing initiative

Bailey baits hook with Master Oats

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

IF RYAN GIGGS can be paid £150,000 a year for wearing a particular brand of football boot and Nick Faldo's annual clothing contract earns Britain's top golfer £1 million, what price should a potential sponsor place on the head of a horse who could become a legend inside the next two months?

The answer may be forthcoming shortly as companies in Britain and further afield consider the tantalising prospect of a sponsorship deal involving Master Oats, the clear favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 16 and joint-favourite for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on April 8.

No horse has won steepchasing's two most cherished races in the same

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: OATIS REGRETS
(3.35 Ascot)
Next best: Kissair
(1.50 Ludlow)

year since the mighty Golden Miller in 1933, but Kim Bailey's fast improving nine-year-old, rated the top chaser in training, is now as short as 25-1 to complete an historic double.

Bailey is a distance clear of most of his training colleagues when it comes to seizing marketing initiatives and yesterday he set out the potential advantages for a company stepping in to sponsor "the hottest property in racing."

He said: "Master Oats could become the best-known horse in the world in the next few weeks and the benefits for a company having their name linked to such a sporting equine star would be immense, especially as the Grand National is seen by literally hundreds of millions of people around the globe."

Bailey is proposing a sponsorship package which would cover all 70 horses at his Upper Lambourn yard, not just Master Oats. The sponsor's name would be emblazoned on the silks of jockeys who ride his horses, the jacks-



Bailey and his progressive chaser Master Oats, the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite, relax at the trainer's Upper Lambourn stables

ets of lads leading them around the racecourse and on the horses' paddock sheets. "I would also do two days here for the sponsor's clients, rather like our open day, where they could have lunch, be taken around the downs, and get involved with our horses and jockeys."

"Ideally, any sponsorship deal would last for two or three years and certainly no shorter than 12 months. With a yard my size other good horses will be coming through and that will help to keep the sponsor's name in lights."

"Between now and Cheltenham and Liverpool how many

photographers and television crews are going to come down here to take pictures of the horse? We have got one coming every day this week. If a company's logo was in every picture imagine how much that is worth in terms of advertising."

The \$64,000 question concerns how much such a deal is worth. Bailey is suggesting £50,000, although it could involve a bartering package. "If an insurance company was interested they could pay for part of the package by insuring the horses, yard and vehicles."

Racing is still feeling its way

with sponsoring horses since the concept was introduced as part of a Government package which included scrapping VAT on bloodstock transactions, including training fees. By the end of last month, more than £30,000 had been raised via sponsorship, covering more than 500 horses in training. Four yards have so far secured commercial backing, including the Arundel stables of John Dunlop, who recently agreed a £25,000 deal with the Tote.

What makes Master Oats such a fascinating prospect is his potential to fill the void left by Desert Orchid, and enjoy

public appeal which transcends the narrow world of horse racing.

Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes, whose company is offering the 25-1 double bet, commented yesterday: "He is a horse who is already capturing the public imagination. They love to see a bold jumping front-runner and he could just be the horse to take over from where Desert Orchid left off. If he wins the Gold Cup he will be 6-1 for the National."

The world's greatest steeplechase regularly attracts television's largest sporting audience and has 300 million viewers around the world. The

4½-mile spectacular is beamed to 27 countries, including Hong Kong.

Martell has estimated that the press coverage flowing from the Grand National is worth the equivalent of £1.2 million in advertising. The next few days will see if a horse with the potential to win the race can generate his own share of funding.

Punters are backing Minnehoma to become the first horse since Red Rum to win the National two years in succession. The 1994 winner was cut to 8-1 from 10-1 with William Hill. He is 14-1 with Coral and Ladbrokes.

Europeans face increased Breeders' Cup entry fees

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A FIVE-YEAR extension to the cross-registration agreement between Europe and the United States was confirmed by both sides yesterday at the expense of increased entry costs for European horses on Breeders' Cup Day.

The deal effectively ends the special terms under which horses bred in Europe have been competing in the annual \$10 million series. Entry costs were previously set at two per cent of the purse, but horses conceived this year will now require entering at nine per cent. The increase is sure to impact on the size of Europe's challenge from 1998.

The two per cent entry fee remains open to European-bred horses which are individually registered, at \$500 each, with Breeders' Cup Ltd. All American-bred horses have paid this levy since the Breeders' Cup was founded in 1982. The fact that Europeans were exempt from similar subscription charges has long been a source of irritation to

American breeders, who insisted on closing the loophole during months of tense negotiations.

Owners with sizeable European-based interests are expected to register their foals with Breeders' Cup Ltd. Khalid Abdulla and Shaikh Maktoum Al-Maktoum have already committed themselves to the project but less affluent owners are unlikely to follow. This leaves them no option but to pay the nine per cent entry fee, on top of substantial travelling costs to contest a Breeders' Cup race.

Michael Waters, chairman of the European Breeders' Fund co-ordinating committee, conceded yesterday he would not be committing his horses to the registration process. And Jeff Smith, whose Lochsong did much to enliven last November's Breeders' Cup renewal, said he would have balked at the \$90,000 cost of entering his mare in the \$1 million Sprint.

Waters conceded: "There are

those in Europe who will inevitably say that nine per cent is far too much. But it is a good deal and less than what it might have been. We have to accept that we negotiated exceptional terms in previous years but those terms are no longer available."

The importance of securing a cross-registration agreement, permitting horses from each continent access to all races, is illustrated by the volume of American-bred yearlings bought to race in Europe. In an 11-year period from 1982, European-based owners imported 12,744 horses costing over \$2 billion.

However, the Maktoum family's decreasing participation at American yearling sales prompted US breeders to push hard for the terms of the new agreement. This has led the Europeans to pursue their own concept for a high-profile European Breeders' Day. The first running has been tentatively set for a venue in Germany next year.

Oatis Regrets to prove best

ASCOT

BBC1

2.30: With most of these runners a long way out of the handicap, this looks like a rematch between Mudahim and Her Honour, who filled the first two places at Haydock last month. Having been beaten four lengths that day, Her Honour is now 15lb better off but it is not certain that Martin Pipe's runner stays here could find her out. Mudahim, impressive winner of the Bishop Cleeve hurdle at Cheltenham 11 days ago, has



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

never been in better form and can complete a treble with ground conditions still in his favour. Your Well, who finished ahead of Her Honour at Kempton over Christmas, looks best of the rest.

3.05: Martha's Son has beaten all his main opponents, repossesses them on similar terms and must take all the beating. Tim Forsster's improving eight-year-old beat the front-running Coulton by almost eight lengths in the Victor Chandler Chase and is only 1lb worse off today. Although Deep Sensation has a 12lb pull, having finished more than 27 lengths behind the

winner, Josh Gifford's horse is out of sorts. Amtrak Express was beaten by the selection at Huntingdon last term but Nicky Henderson's chaser has improved considerably since then and is the main danger.

BBC2

3.35: This is a cracking race in which eight of the runners have sound prospects. Brave Highlander was given an enterprising ride by Jamie Osborne to win over course and distance last month but is unlikely to be able to dominate from the front this time. Osborne rides Oatis Regrets today and Henrietta Knight's chaser is held in high regard at home. He was slightly disappointing at Cheltenham last month but he is far better going right-handed. Suny Bay beat Smith's Band at Warwick and the pair repossess on identical terms. Sweet Duke loves Ascot but his best chancing form is over a slightly shorter trip and on softer ground. Approach The Stars has scope for improvement.

RICHARD EVANS

LUDLOW

1.20 Seasonal Splendour, 1.50 Banana Cove, 2.20 Scherard, 3.25 Seymour, 3.25 Certainly Strong, 3.55 Wild Illusion, 4.25 Talbot, 4.55 Time For A Fluter.

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings:
3.55 HERMES HARVEST.
Brian Beal: 3.55 Wild Illusion.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 BULL RING MAIDEN HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m) (18 runners)

- 1 FITZPATRICK 41 J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
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- 13 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18 GILBERTSON 40 J Foster 5-11-8 M Perrett

1.50 BULL RING MAIDEN HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m) (18 runners)

- 1 BEECH BROOK 41 J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18 CAST THE LINE 108 P Spence 5-11-8 M Perrett

2.20 NEWTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m) (20)

- 1-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 19-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 20-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett

2.50 BUTTS HANDICAP CHASE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m) (8)

- 1-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-40 FALCON DAWN 20 M Mudge 5-11-8 M Perrett

3.25 WINSTANSTON NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

3.55 ASHFORD CARROLL HUNTER CHASE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

4.25 TENSLEY NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 15-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 16-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 17-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

4.55 LEEDSMIRE MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m 110yd) (14)

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 5-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 6-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 7-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 8-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 4-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
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- 8-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 9-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 10-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

Blinked first time

ASCOT

THUNDERER

- 1.30 No Pain No Gain
- 2.00 Gales Cavalier
- 2.30 Mudahim
- 3.05 Martha's Son
- 3.35 SUNNY BAY (nap)
- 4.05 Calliope Bay
- 4.35 Tennessee Twist

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARDS

- 101 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 102 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 103 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 104 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 105 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
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- 118 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 119 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 120 11343 GOOD TIMES 13 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.30 KILFANE CONDITIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (Div 1: £2,276; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
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- 17-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 18-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett

FORM FOCUS

- 1-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 2-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 3-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
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- 11-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 12-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 13-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-11-8 M Perrett
- 14-2222 CERTAINLY STRONG 40 (P) J Wilson 5-1

Organisers rule quarter-finalists must stay at altitude

England get no room for World Cup manoeuvre

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THEY may not be based where they wanted to be, but at least the managers of the England rugby union team can get on and plan their World Cup after the tournament directors confirmed yesterday that the quarter-finalists must all be based at altitude. England, whose pool matches are played in Durban, wanted to remain in a hotel at sea level if they qualified for the knockout stage, but they will find themselves quartered either in Johannesburg or Pretoria.

The question of accommodation was in danger of becoming a cause célèbre: the Rugby Football Union, which has also been denied the opportunity to stay in the up-country hotel outside Durban which it surveyed last summer, offered Rugby World Cup (RWC) a detailed schedule covering all possible contingencies during the tournament. It kept them in either Durban or Cape Town, moving only to altitude if they were runners-up in their pool or for the final.

"I don't think we have any choice and I am sure we will just get on with it," Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, said. "I'm a bit surprised it won't be possible to stay in the city where you will be playing your next game, which is what happened in the last World Cup, but I don't think it affects England's chances."

England are not the only team to be inconvenienced: Australia, the holders, who are also based at sea level, sought to stay in the cities of their next match venues, but have not pressed the point. South Africa, who play pool matches in Cape Town, already have to move to Johannesburg and return to Cape Town for a quarter-final. Wales wanted more time during pool matches

in Johannesburg and less in Bloemfontein, a thousand feet lower, but the RWC directors have stuck to their philosophy of equal treatment for all.

Marcel Martin, director of the RWC commercial programme, compared the treatment that each team will get this summer with that of 1991, when travelling arrangements were left in the hands of individual unions, which resulted in two teams sharing the same flight, one in business class and the other in economy. Should England still insist on doing their own thing, they will run up against the tournament's disputes committee, which has the power to take any sanction against teams that do not comply with the participation agreement.

"We are trying to deal on an equitable basis with all the unions," Sir Ewart Bell, the RWC chairman, said yesterday. "It's a fact of life that, in South Africa, there is only a limited amount of hotel accommodation. It's extremely difficult to deal with this situation in a way that gives everyone what they want."

"If we gave way to England and made six other unions unhappy, what would we have gained? We have responsibility for 16 participating countries." Having meted out equal treatment for all, RWC is more concerned about an apparent discrepancy in the projected seats available for the final, at Ellis Park, in Johannesburg. The host union agreement indicated a capacity of 66,000, possibly rising to 75,000; it is now said to be 62,000, a shortfall of some 4,000 tickets at R200 (£40) a ticket.

Audited figures for several venues, where additional work is in train, are still awaited, but the situation is complicated by the local agreement over "suite extras",



Andrew, of England, and Sella, of France, get to grips with the rugby World Cup

whereby suite holders are permitted to extend the numbers in their boxes — all of whom require a match ticket — thus creating a flexible overall capacity.

The addition of Xerox, the document company, completes an impressive list of global sponsors for the World Cup and virtually ensures the attainment of the commercial target of £30 million. One of the main sponsors, Heineken, will also be the broadcast sponsor after reaching a £2 million agreement with ITV.

□ The Scotland team to play France in Paris on February 19 in the five nations' championship will be known today, but is likely to be unchanged from that which beat Canada and Ireland.

Selection delayed

THE Wales selectors have put back by 48 hours their announcement of the XV to play England in Cardiff on February 18 (David Hands writes). This will allow them to watch the round of Heineken League matches tonight, in which Hemi Taylor will make his comeback from injury for Cardiff against Treorchy.

Taylor damaged a hand in a nightclub on Christmas Eve and was not expected to be fit until later this month, but the New Zealand-born flanker's progress has been so rapid that he will play alongside Emyr Lewis — who has also returned from injury and will be playing his second league

game in five days — and Mike Hall, who damaged ribs 11 days ago.

Should Taylor emerge unscathed, he seems certain to be included when the team is announced tomorrow.

Adeyado Adeyabo, the Bath wing, has been added to the replacements for the England A international against Italy A at Gloucester on February 19. He takes the place of Will Greenwood, who is required for the Emerging England side that will play Romania A at West Hartlepool on February 17. Greenwood, the Harlequins centre, plays full back because Mark Mapletoft, of Gloucester, will not be fit.

Scots hope to protect pitch at national stadium

By MARK SOUSTER

THE Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) is to review the number of matches to be played at Murrayfield next season because of the deteriorating state of the pitch. Soil experts last week took samples from the playing surface, which was once among the best in Britain but more recently has been the target for criticism.

Certain areas are bare and heavy with mud. After the international against Canada last month, the Scotland coach, Dougie Morgan, described its condition as the worst he had ever seen.

The new £45 million all-seater stadium is the root cause of the problem. The huge stands that now enclose Murrayfield cast vast shadows over much of the ground during winter. Without sun and, more importantly, drying winds circulating at pitch level, areas suffering from heavy wear and tear have not been able to recover.

The SRU knew before embarking on the stadium's reconstruction that there would be teething troubles, but they admit that the number of matches played — 20 so far this season, including three in a row on the day Scotland met South Africa — has exacerbated the problems, as have some atrocious weather conditions.

Bill Flogg, the SRU chief executive, said: "It's been an unfortunate coincidence but, in the light of what's happened this winter, we will be looking at our schedule for next winter shortly."

Before then, however, Murrayfield is to be the venue this summer for the Scotland Claymores team in the reconstructed world league of American football. It will also stage a rock concert in July.

The difficulties experienced by Murrayfield are not unique to Scotland and in no way reflect on the work of the ground staff, led by Bill Elwood. Other unions who have rebuilt their stadia have experienced similar growing pains. Tony Horne, ground manager of the national stadium in Wales, said that it had taken four years to get the pitch "somewhere near good quality".

Bates falls at first hurdle in Dubai

JEREMY BATES suffered his most embarrassing defeat for some time in the first round of the Dubai Open tennis tournament yesterday when he was beaten by a young German who had not expected to be playing in the competition. Carsten Arriens, 23, had failed to survive the qualifying stages of the tournament, but was called into the opening round as a "lucky loser" after Mark Woodford, of Australia, withdrew. However, Arriens convincingly beat the British No 1 in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4.

Bates was not helped by an early dispute with the umpire, Rudy Berger, in only the third point of the match when Berger overruled a call, giving Arriens an ace. The umpire then refused to ask the crowd to be quiet during play. "I made so many errors and had no confidence when hitting the ball. It was pushing it instead of hitting it," Bates said. "It was a horrible match for me, but Arriens played well. He had nothing to lose. I could do absolutely nothing with the ball."

Magee raises his sights

BOXING: Noel Magee, from Belfast, will challenge Fabrice Tiozzo, of France, for the European light-heavyweight title on March 4 in Marseille. Magee, 29, who has twice failed in British title challenges, has had his proposed challenge for Gary Delaney's Commonwealth title postponed three times, but yesterday he was delighted when Barney Eastwood, his manager, announced the new challenge. "This sport is all about making money and I am getting double the purse I would have got for fighting Delaney," Magee said. "I have been trying very hard for some time now and I believe Tiozzo's come-forward style will suit me. I'll be trying 100 per cent every round and I believe I'll bring the title back."

Women break through

DARTS: Next year's Embassy world professional championship will be open to women for the first time, the British Darts Organisation (BDO) announced yesterday. The leading eight women in the BDO international rankings will be invited to compete in the international play-offs in December, which precede the final stages of the event in January. The two top women players are both British — Deta Hedman, from Essex, and Mandy Solomons, of London — but they are unlikely to reach the final rounds because of the strength in depth of the men's game.

Ireland offer test

NETBALL: Youth and experience are blended in a new-look England team to face Ireland in Bedford on Saturday. "The newcomers are all pushing hard for regular senior honours and the match is a great opportunity to see them in action before the world championship in Birmingham in July," the England coach, Liz Broomhead, said. Kendra Slawinski, 32, will captain the side, in which Joanne Hall and Louise Sheridan, both 22, will make their debuts. **TEAM:** M Barry (Bedford), S Flannery (Bedford), J Hall (G. Monaghan), S Bird (Essex), H Kelly (Birmingham), K Slawinski (Essex), L Sheridan (Essex), J Zircon (Bedford).

Prenn dominates

REAL TENNIS: John Prenn, the former world rackets champion, and Claire Southwell fought back from a set down against Fiona Deuchan, from Australia, and John Wilson to win the Oracle British mixed doubles championship at Hampton Court. Prenn dominated the play. **□ Nigel Pendrigh and James Acheson-Gray, of Charterhouse, the British amateur doubles champions, won the Henry Leaf public schools old boys doubles championship against the Haileybury pairing of William Hollington and Ruairaid Gunn.**

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Poly Road, 2.40 Ertion, 3.15 Mazilla, 3.45 Red Admiral, 4.15 Harlequin Walk, 4.45 Noutari.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:

2.10 Soldier's Leap, 2.40 Ertion, 3.15 Mazilla.

GOING: STANDARD

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 WELAND CLAIMING STAKES

(3-7-0; £2,537; 1m 179y) (9 runners)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

3-1 Soldier's Leap, 7-2 Poly Road, 4-1 Poly Road, 5-1 Dugan's Field, 7-1 Tonia, 10-1 Fook's Of Price, 12-1 others.

2.40 TYNE HANDICAP

(£5,602; 1m 100y) (8)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

3.15 DIXONS THE ESTATE AGENTS CHALLENGE

95 HANDICAP

(3-7-0; £3,589; 70) (8)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

3-1 Chalkley Lane, 4-1 Crystal Rock, 5-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10, 6-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10, 7-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10, 8-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10, 9-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10.

3.45 LADBROKE ALL WEATHER BOWL SERIES

HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,453; 5) (9)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

4.15 NENE HUNTER AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(£2,935; 1m 40) (10)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

3-1 Havens Place, 7-2 Open Bar, 8-2 Seven Stars, 11-2 Dugan's Field, 1-1 Harlequin Walk, 7-1 M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10, 10-1 Sharp Tack, 12-1 others.

4.45 THAMES HANDICAP

(£4,182; 1m 40) (10)

1-403 SOLDIER'S LEAP 11 (A) C. Batten 9-5 R. Cochrane 1
2-21 CHAUNCEY 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
3-20 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
4-15 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
5-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
6-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
7-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
8-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10
9-10 POLY ROAD 10 (A) M. B. 4-10 D. B. 4-10

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W. Haggis, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%.

Jockeys' title reverts to winners

THE Jockeys' Association yesterday completed an embarrassing U-turn when riders formally learnt that the controversial prize-money championships are being scrapped.

The traditional winners format, abandoned a little over a month ago, will be reinstated immediately with the Flat championship, as in 1994, running from January 1 to December 31.

The establishment of separate turf and all-weather titles was considered too complicated to introduce this year.

The first to benefit will be supporters of Frankie Dettori who, having cut back his all-weather commitments while the title confusion was cleared up, is likely to return to the sand full-time from Thursday.

The decision, to be officially announced by the Jockeys' Association secretary, Michael Caulfield, today, completes a humiliating climbdown for the jockeys' representative who has already conceded that the decision to switch to the unpopular prize-money format was badly handled.

Caulfield told his members yesterday: "Despite the well-intentioned move to prize-money from winners, we cannot fail to recognise that the changes have been unpopular and, to a degree, unacceptable by many other sections of the industry and jockeys."

"I know there are some jockeys who would like to have seen the prize-money factor retained for one year, but the overall weight of opinion was to revert back to winners."

Therefore, I feel an early announcement should be made signalling the change back to winners. This should not have any great implications for jump racing as the present season still has four months to run.

He added: "With regards to Flat racing, there was some discussion on whether to separate the Turf and AWT season. On balance, it was felt that it may cause further confusion and controversy to create a new season in 1995."

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England A revived by tailend battlers

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A TENSE finish is in prospect in Chandigarh today where England A need a further 31 runs to win the third international against their Indian counterparts and so complete a 3-0 clean sweep in the series.

Richard Johnson and Min Patel have already added 19 for the ninth wicket in taking England A to 146 for eight in pursuit of a victory target of 177.

A dusty, fast-deteriorating pitch with the surface crumbling particularly badly at one end — made batting a hazardous occupation on the fourth day.

A succession of English batsmen perished trying to attack the Indian spinners, yet that was perhaps a more honourable way to go than dying a slow death by defence in the crease, in the knowledge that the unplayable delivery was likely to come along at any moment.

Paul Weekes and his captain, Alan Wells, both played particularly well, but fell trying to charge the off spinner, Kanwaljit Singh, who, with the slow left-arm Uppal Chatterjee, bowled skilfully for the best part of two sessions.

Wells and Weekes added 43 in positive style for the fourth wicket after England had lost three wickets for 38 either side of lunch. But when Wells tried to hit Singh over mid-off he was deceived by the flight and turn and was bowled.

Dominic Cork again disappointed with the bat, falling leg-before for seven as he tried to pull, but Keith Piper could feel hard done by to be given out caught at the wicket off a brute of a delivery that turned and lifted and appeared to dip him on the shoulder as he pushed forward.

Weekes's brave innings of 38, which included a six and five fours, ended in ugly fashion when he attempted a violent straight hit at Singh's expense and was smartly stumped.

Glen Chapple struck a couple of fours but then edged to slip, leaving Johnson, who defended stoutly but also struck some fierce blows in reaching 18 and Patel (eight not out) to carry England's hopes into the final day when Richard Stemp, the No 11, will

be anxiously monitoring their progress in the pavilion.

"We can still do it because our last three can all bat well," Phil Neale, the England A manager, said. "But the pitch is making batting very difficult. Their spinners bowl so few bad balls you have to try to upset their line and length. It will be interesting to see if they take the new ball first thing, because it is now due."

However, win, lose or tie in this match the tour has proved highly successful with several players advancing their claims for promotion into the senior side.

"What should be remembered is that we have lost the toss in each of the internationals," John Barclay, the team manager said. "To have won the series from that position is a very sizeable achievement. India must be disappointed that they have not made more use of a massive advantage in all three games."

The day began with England A needing a further ten overs and two balls to remove the last two Indian batsmen after the home side had resumed at 136 for eight.

Patel and Chapple took a wicket apiece, with Chapple finishing with five for 38 to take his tally for the series to 19, which have cost him only 15.58 runs apiece.

INDIA A: First innings 229 (R Dravid 58; G Chapple 4-60)

Second Innings
 V S Ramesh bow b Patel 18
 G Rhoda bow b Chapple 0
 S C Ganguly c Piper b Cork 8
 R Dravid bow b Chapple 47
 A Muzumdar bow b Chapple 56
 R Sharmah c Piper b Chapple 4
 M Walke bow b Chapple 0
 A Chatterjee not out 6
 P L K Mithambary b Patel 4
 K Singh 238 98* 41.80 2 9
 M A Akbar 10 407 88 40.70 4 4
 J P Crawley 5 171 72 34.20 2 1
 G A Good 10 245 55 24.50 1 2
 D Gough 3 5 98 51 24.50 1 4
 A J Stewart 2 4 1 73 33 24.33 1 2
 M W Gelling 5 0 182 117 23.22 1 2
 P A J DeFreitas 8 0 141 58 17.62 1 2
 C O Lewis 2 4 0 88 40 17.00 1 3
 E E Macdonald 4 7 3 50 29 12.50 1 1
 A R G Fraser 3 5 0 53 27 10.60 1 0
 S J Rhodes 5 9 1 72 38 9.00 2/1
 P C R Tufnell 4 7 3 6 4* 1.50 2 0

PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: M R Ramprakash 72, 42 (2nd); M J McGee 1, 0

Second Innings
 J E R Galtan c Ganguly b Chatterjee 9
 N V Knight c Sharmah b Singh 21
 D C Kemp c Dravid b Singh 4
 A P Wells b Singh 36
 P N Weekes c Walke b Chatterjee 38
 D G Cork bow b Chatterjee 12
 K J Piper c Walke b Chatterjee 12
 G Chapple c Sharmah b Mithambary 12
 R Johnson not out 18
 M M Patel not out 8
 Bases (b 3, b 1, w 1, no 1) 146
 Total 146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-122 3-33 4-114 5-120 6-120 7-126 8-132 9-136

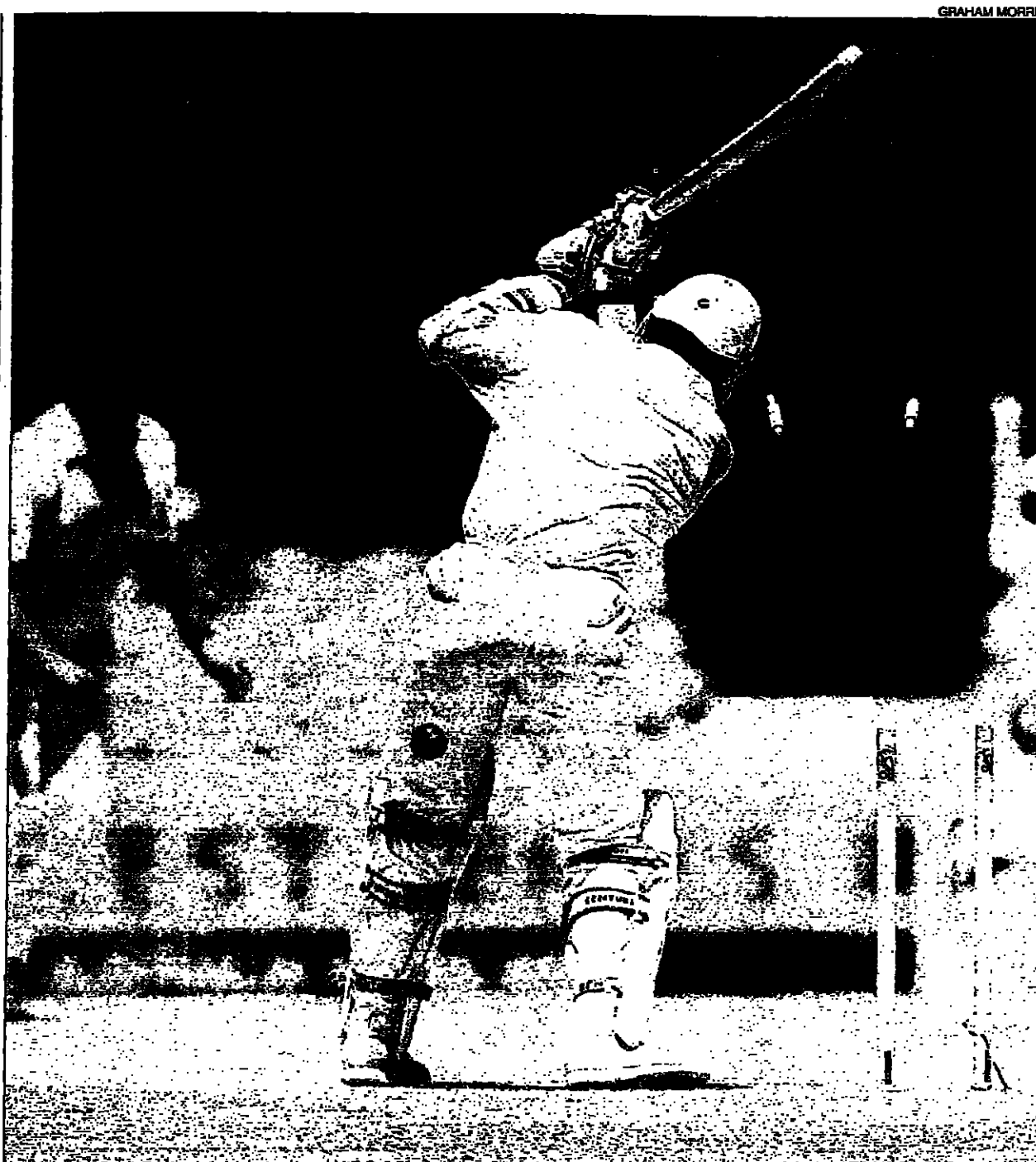
BOWLING: Cork 10-4-25-1; Chapple 19-2-36-10-43-3; Johnson 8-0-22-0; Stemp 8-1-23-0

England A: First Innings 209 (P L K Mithambary 4-58)

Second Innings
 J E R Galtan c Ganguly b Chatterjee 9
 N V Knight c Sharmah b Singh 21
 D C Kemp c Dravid b Singh 4
 A P Wells b Singh 36
 P N Weekes c Walke b Chatterjee 38
 D G Cork bow b Chatterjee 12
 K J Piper c Walke b Chatterjee 12
 G Chapple c Sharmah b Mithambary 12
 R Johnson not out 18
 M M Patel not out 8
 Bases (b 3, b 1, w 1, no 1) 146
 Total 146

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20 2-37 3-38 4-81 5-106 6-128 7-127 8-127 9-127

BOWLING: Mithambary 13-4-22-1; Ganguly 20-4-24-0; Chatterjee 28-11-57-3; Singh 20-13-42-4; Padmanabhan 4-0-13-0



Last hurrah: Craig McDermott bowls Devon Malcolm, the England No 11, to complete a comprehensive victory for Australia in the fifth and final Test match in Perth yesterday. Report and scoreboard, page 48

TEST AVERAGES

England										Australia									
Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	0s	Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	0s
G P Thorpe	5	10	1	444	123	49.33	1	3	5	G S Blewett	2	4	1	249	115	62.00	2	1	3
G A Hick	3	6	1	238	98*	41.80	2	9	0	M J Slater	10	0	0	623	178	62.30	3	1	3
M A Atherton	5	10	0	407	88	40.70	4	4	4	S R Waugh	5	10	3	345	89*	49.28	1	3	3
J P Crawley	5	10	0	171	72	34.20	2	1	1	M A Taylor	5	10	0	471	113	47.10	1	4	7
G A Good	5	10	0	245	55	24.50	1	2	0	M E Waugh	10	20	3	436	140	43.60	1	2	8
D Gough	3	5	1	98	51	24.50	1	4	0	J A Healy	5	10	3	248	74	35.57	2	2	2
A J Stewart	2	4	1	73	33	24.33	1	2	0	D C Boon	5	10	0	246	131	24.60	1	2	2
M W Gelling	5	10	0	182	117	23.22	1	2	0	T B A May	5	10	2	81	10*	15.50	0	0	0
P A J DeFreitas	8	16	1	141	58	17.62	1	2	0	M G Bevan	3	6	0	81	25	13.50	0	0	0
C O Lewis	2	4	0	88	40	17.00	1	3	0	D W Fleming	3	6	0	40	24	10.00	0	0	0
E E Macdonald	4	7	3	50	29	12.50	1	1	0	C J McDermott	2	4	0	42	21*	7.00	0	0	0
A R G Fraser	3	5	0	53	27	10.60	1	0	0	S K Warne	5	10	1	60	38*	6.00	0	0	0
S J Rhodes	5	9	1	72	38*	9.00	2/1	0	0	G S McGlashan	2	4	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
P C R Tufnell	4	7	3	6	4*	1.50	2	0	0	PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: J Angel 11, 0; P E Ndreya 0, 0									
PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: M R Ramprakash 72, 42 (2nd); M J McGee 1, 0																			
Bowling										Bowling									
O	M	R	W	Average	BB	50/100													
D Gough	125.3	33	425	20	21.25	6-49													
C O Lewis	75.3	13	249	11	22.62	4-24													
R G Fraser	129.5	19	278	15	18.78	5-41													
P A J DeFreitas	18.9	3	556	13	42.93	3-91													
M R Tufnell	207.4	45	442	10	44.20	4-79													
P C R Tufnell	101.1	32	588	13	45.32	4-36													
P J McGlashan	19.2	4	96	2	48.00	2-96													
G A Good	25.6	7	1	74	100	2-20													
BOWLED: G A Hick 16.3-58.0; M R Ramprakash 19.1-74.3																			
Batting										Batting									
M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	0s	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Average	100	50	0s		
G S Blewett	2	4	1	249	115	62.00	2	1	3	G S Blewett	2	4	1	249	115	62.00	2	1	3
M J Slater	10	0	0	623	178	62.30	3	1	3	M J Slater	10	0	0	623	178	62.30	3	1	3
S R Waugh	5	10	3	345	89*	49.28	1	3	3	S R Waugh	5	10	3	345	89*	49.28	1	3	3
M A Taylor	5	10	0	471	113	47.10	1	4	7	M A Taylor	5	10	0	471	113	47.10	1	4	7
M E Waugh	10	20	3	436	140	43.60	1	2	8	M E Waugh	10	20	3	436	140	43.60	1	2	8
J A Healy	5	10	3	248	74	35.57	2	2	2	J A Healy	5	10	3	248	74	35.57	2	2	2
D C Boon	5	10	0	246	131	24.60	1	2	2	D C Boon	5	10	0	246	131	24.60	1	2	2
T B A May	5	10	2	81	10*	15.50	0	0	0	T B A May	5	10	2	81	10*	15.50	0	0	0
M G Bevan	3	6	0	81	25	13.50	0	0	0	M G Bevan	3	6	0	81	25	13.50	0	0	0
D W Fleming	3	6	0	40	24	10.00	0	0	0	D W Fleming	3	6	0	40	24	10.00	0	0	0
C J McDermott	2	4	0	42	21*	7.00	0	0	0	C J McDermott	2	4	0	42	21*	7.00	0	0	0
S K Warne	5	10	1	60	38*	6.00	0	0	0	S K Warne	5	10	1	60	38*	6.00	0	0	0
G S McGlashan	2	4	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	G S McGlashan	2	4	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: J Angel 11, 0; P E Ndreya 0, 0																			
Bowling										Bowling									
O	M	R	W	Average	BB	50/100													
M E Waugh	53	11	157	8	19.82	5-10													
S K Warne	256.1	84	549	27	20.33	8-71	2	1	1										
C J McDermott	232.5	56	575	32	21.08	6-38	4	1	1										
M E Waugh	102.3	30	274	10	27.40	3-18	0	0	0										
J Angel	25.3	7	86	3	26.33	3-66	0	0	0										
G S McGlashan	67.1	16	229	6	36.16	3-40	0	0	0										
P E Ndreya	27.3	3	85	1	43.50	0-51	0	0	0										
T B A May	101.30	21	219	1	219.00	1-34	0	0	0										
ALSO BOWLED: M G Bevan, 7.1-19.0; G S Blewett, 24.5-91.0																			
* denotes not out																			
Source: ICC/PA Cricket Record																			

Trent Bridge profits mean improvements

FURTHER developments at Trent Bridge are expected to follow yesterday's announcement by Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club of a record profit of £134,000 for the past financial year. The club has managed to reduce its overdraft to £617,000.

Natal won the Castle Cup, South Africa's domestic first-class championship, with one round of matches still to play when their closest rivals, Northern Transvaal, lost to Western Province on Monday. Natal, who last took the title in 1981 and have been helped by the presence of Malcolm Marshall, the former West Indies fast bowler, won six of their first seven matches.

Pakistan attempt to restore pride in second Test

PAKISTAN had a point to prove as they entered the second Test with Zimbabwe yesterday, with the memory of their humiliating innings defeat by their hosts a week ago still fresh, and, to a point at least, they proved it. The Pakistanis dominated the first day's play in Bulawayo, dismissing Zimbabwe for 174 with an irresistible display of swing bowling, and took well capable of levelling the series at 1-1.

The Flower brothers, Grant and Andy, who made 201 not out and 156, respectively, in the first Test, were dismissed for a total of 20 between them, while last week's third century, Guy Whittall, was out for seven.

Only a gritty 60 by Alistair Campbell in 234 minutes from 163 balls enabled Zimbabwe to recover after being reduced to 23 for three and then 86 for six. He received valuable support from Paul Strang, who made 32, and the pair shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 48.

The Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower, was soon ruing his decision to bat on a greenish-looking pitch as Mark Dekker fell for a duck and Grant Flower became Wasim Akram's 250th Test victim when he was bowled for six. Akram went on to remove the former captain, Dave Houghton, for 11 and Stuart Carlisle for one before finishing with figures of three for 40 in 22 overs.

Amir Nazir and Manzoor Elahi each took two wickets and Kabir Khan accounted for Whittall. The left-arm spinner, Aamir Sohail, wrapped up the tail with two wickets for five runs in the space of 13 deliveries.

It was a far cry from the first Test in Harare, which Zimbabwe won by an innings and 64 runs with a day to spare. There, they had declared on 544 for four, setting up their first Test victory since being accorded Test status in 1992, after six draws and four defeats. Such heroics were in markedly short supply in Bulawayo.

However, there was encouragement for Zimbabwe at the end of the day when Pakistan lost Shakeel Ahmed leg-before to Heath Streak for five. Indeed, Pakistan were fortunate not to lose a second wicket in the four overs they faced. Whittall dropped a simple chance at mid-off when Aamir Sohail drove fast bowler, won six of their first seven matches.

Benjamin smashes fiery 85 to retrieve spectacle

WINSTON BENJAMIN and Curtly Ambrose, the West Indies fast bowlers, enjoyed an entertaining afternoon, at the expense of their New Zealand counterparts as the first Test match ended in a predictable draw at Christchurch yesterday after two days were lost to rain and bad light.

The fifth day started with West Indies on 102 for five, needing 40 to avoid the follow-on. Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who scored his fifth Test half-century in nine innings, and Junior Murray quickly reached that goal.

Murray was superbly caught with the score at 155 by Darrin Murray at mid-wicket off Shane Thomson for 28, signalling the arrival of Benjamin, who smashed 85 runs off 87 balls with some shots out of a baseball manual. He and Chanderpaul put on 77 in 76 balls for the seventh wicket. Then, with Ambrose, Benjamin put on 67 in 65 balls for the eighth wicket.

Danny Morrison finally

Scoreboards, page 44

bowled Ambrose for 33, which included six fours, and Benjamin lost his off-stump to Simon Doull after hitting him back over his head for six off the previous ball. Morrison finished with six for 69 when he had Kenneth Benjamin caught behind. West Indies having reached 312 in reply to New Zealand's 341 for eight declared.

New Zealand then lost both openers, Murray and Bryan Young, to consecutive balls, both to controversial caught-behind umpiring decisions. However, Ken Rutherford, the captain, and Andrew Jones safely negotiated their way to the close, against mostly gentle bowling, with the score on 61.

While honours for the match were even, New Zealand came out with most gains. They went into the game with a string of defeats behind them and had been demoralised by a marijuana-smoking scandal which had seen three players — Stephen Fleming, Dion Nash and Matthew Hart — suspended for the West Indies one-day series.

However, a determined batting display on a green wicket, including 56 from Fleming and 100 not out by the man-of-the-match, Adam Parore, gave them a much-needed lift.

Conner ahead after racing is curtailed

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

DENNIS CONNER finished top of the America's Cup defence trials when the second round series, for the Citizen Cup, was cut short yesterday after fog and light winds during the past week forced three days of racing to be lost.

Conner's yacht, *Stars & Stripes*, beat Lesley Egnot and her *America* all-women crew by 28sec to end the second round two points clear of Kevin Mahaney's *Young America*. *America* was third, four further points adrift.

The most impressive performance in San Diego, however, was that of the *Tea New Zealand* crew, skipped by Russell Coutts. They beat Chris Dickson's rival New Zealand challenger, *TAG Heuer Challenge*, on Monday to remain unbeaten on the water in the Louis Vuitton Cup challenge trials. Their one defeat came in the protest room after John Bertrand's

oneAustria called foul on *Tea New Zealand's* practice of having a man at the top of the mast looking for favourable conditions.

Racing on the challenge course was extended yesterday to take in the races that were lost earlier in the series, which will, in turn, cut into the development time of all the syndicates. As an example, Pedro Campos, the skipper of the hapless Spanish entry, *Rioja de Espana*, which has lost a score of a win in the Louis Vuitton Cup, said that his team has neither the time nor money to modify its boat.

RESULTS: Louis Vuitton Cup: Second round, oneAustria 1 (Bertrand) b Sydney 95 (M Coutts) by 20sec; France 3 (M Pech) b Rioja de Espana (P Campos) by 22sec; *Tea New Zealand* (Coutts) b TAG Heuer Challenge (Dickson) by 54 Overall: *Tea New Zealand* 14pts; oneAustria 13; 3, TAG Heuer Challenge 11; 4, Nippon 94 (M Namba, Japan) 8; 5, Puma 3 7; 5, Sydney 94 4; 7, Rioja de Espana 0. Citizen Cup defence trials: *Stars & Stripes* (D Conner) b *America* (S Egnot) by 28. Overall positions: 1, *Stars & Stripes* 2; 2, *Young America* 7; 3, *America* 3

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

APPOGAMY

(a) Absence of sexual reproduction, asexual reproduction, apogamy, specifically in ferns and other cryptogams, the production of the perfect plant directly from a bud on the prothallus instead of the usual sexual process. "The author could not derive away from a gamete marriage. The author could not derive any act of impregnation [in a parasite on the olive], and believes that reproduction is apogamic."

BILLAN

(b) The ironwood of Borneo, also *balean*, *billan*, *bulean*, from the Malay word. "The Chinese export considerable quantities of timber from Sambas and Pontiana, particularly of the kind called *balean* by the natives."

DOLMUS

(a) A shared form of public transport (in Turkey) especially a taxi, from the Turkish *dolmus* "filled". They embarked in a depart only when all the seats are taken. "They embarked in a depart, a rowing-boat, with two other people waiting."

GALAX

(b) An evergreen plant of the genus so called of the family Diapensiaceae, native to the southeastern United States, and having white flowers and shiny leaves, adapted from the Greek *galaxias* a galaxy.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Be9 diverts the White queen from the defence of b2, and after 2, Qxg5 Qxb2 is mate. Note that 2, f4 Bxd4! does not help the White cause.

Leopards look to Deveau for bite

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE surprising departure last week of one of the Bundesliga's most popular players, the shaven-haired seven-footer, Henri Abrams, means that all eyes in the London Arena tonight will be on his replacement in the Leopards' line-up, DeCarlo Deveau, a 6ft 5in Bahamian, could hardly have chosen a bigger match for his debut than the first leg of the National Cup semi-final against Thames Valley Tigers.

The almost indecent haste with which Abrams was cut by the Leopards, having become something of a cult figure, will put added pressure on Deveau to come up with the points to satisfy his new coach, Billy Mims. "It's very nice having a seven-footer in your team," Mims said. "But basically we thought we needed someone who could give us more points. Henri did a tremendous job rebounding and blocking shots, but he was lousy when it came to scoring points against the big teams."

Mims knows all about Deveau from their days on opposite sides in the Sunshine State Conference. Last season, Mims saw his Barry University squad hit for 39 points in one game by Deveau, who then produced a three-pointer on the buzzer to win the return fixture for the University of Tampa. "He's been a thorn in my side for too long now, so it will be good to have him helping me instead," the coach said.

Deveau is thought to be too small to be taking over Abrams' position so Carl Miller will be the new centre, although it will be asking a lot of him to subdue Tony Holley and Neville Austin, with their height advantage.

Fortune favours brave Higgins

BY PHIL YATES

A CANDIDATE for the fluke of the season and a century break could not prevent Darren Morgan, the world No 8, losing 5-2 to John Higgins in the second round of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

Higgins, competing on the strength of a sponsors' wild card invitation, followed an impressive 5-3 victory over Tony Drago in the first round on Sunday with another efficient performance that suggested that collecting the £120,000 first prize is not beyond his capabilities.

With Morgan missing some vital shots, notably a simple black in the second frame and an equally straightforward pink in the fourth, Higgins, who compiled breaks of 46, 45 and 111, established a 4-0 lead at the mid-session interval. "The fifth frame, a disjointed affair in which both players made mistakes, was bizarrely resolved when Morgan fluked the final black off three cushions to a middle pocket after his intended pot to a baulk pocket had been at least a foot off target.

When Morgan subsequently put together a 104 clearance in the sixth frame to trail only 4-2, it seemed the outrageous fluke could prove to be a turning point, but one of Higgins's greatest assets is an ability to remain unruffled in such situations and he went on to win a low-scoring seventh frame to set

Rampant McDermott speeds England to heaviest defeat of series

Atherton urges infusion of youth

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PERTH

MICHAEL ATHERTON'S instant response to another crushing Test defeat here yesterday was an impassioned plea to his employers. Tired and drawn, the England captain clutched a sheet of notes that looked suspiciously like a resignation speech but transpired to be only a prompt for a mind weary almost beyond words.

An hour earlier England had lost the final Test by 329 runs and the series by three games to one. It was their fourth consecutive heavy series loss to Australia and an eighth defeat in the last nine. It is a woeful record and Atherton was grimly aware of the usual consequences for a man in his position.

"A captain is only judged by results and ours have been poor," he said. "I am keen to do this job again but whether I am captain or not, I would implore the selectors to invest in youth. It is the only way forward for us now."

Giving voice to the views

Averages, page 45
England A's struggle, page 45
West Indies draw, page 45

that have hardened within him during this difficult tour. Atherton confirmed that he had felt "less empathy" with this tour party than the younger squad which played in the Caribbean last winter. "It is just a feeling and one I can't really expand on, except to say we weren't as united or focused on the job as we were last year."

Identical emotions were expressed by Graham Gooch when he led the last tour of Australia. He, too, had been in charge in the West Indies a few months earlier and found that he could not recreate the same purposeful atmosphere. Both may have believed the waters were muddied by too many senior players.

Atherton, while anxious not to deride the contributions of Gooch and Mike Gatting, is now keen to create a team in his own generation and personality. "The selection for this tour was done specifically with the short-term aim of winning back the Ashes. We have not done that and it is time to look ahead. We have a lot of good young players and we must back them."



Fletcher, the team manager, Atherton, DeFreitas and Gatting reflect on the implications of yet another ill-fated campaign during the presentation ceremony

He was careful to blame neither the unprecedented saga of injuries nor the unrelenting schedule since last January for the emphatic defeat here. But he did admit: "After 13 months on the road I feel as if I have hit a brick wall. I am completely knackered and I know some of the others feel the same. I tried to give my all and raise my game here but I couldn't quite do it."

Such helplessness was evident in Atherton's dismissal to the twelfth ball of the final day, a wicket which left England at 27 for six and confronted by the starkness of their

many recent embarrassments. For the second time in the match, Atherton was caught down the leg side by Ian Healy as he followed a ball from Glenn McGrath.

He did not wait for the appeal to be answered, giving himself out and trudging slowly away. As he walked through the dressing-room gate he swatted a chair with his bat in frustration. He was shaking his head in the fashion that had him fined by an over-zealous match referee at the Oval last August but, this time, nobody expressed anything but sympathy for his

expression told of a man who has given his all in vain.

Salvation was at hand from the worst indignities, at least. Mark Ramprakash, whose shelved Test career has been given renewed life, seized the opportunity of a lost cause to play some compelling strokes. In partnership with Steve Rhodes, who more than doubled his grim run aggregate for the series, he added 66 for the seventh wicket.

This skittish interlude was ended by Mark Waugh, a spare-time bowler taking his eighth wicket in three innings, and when Mark Taylor, Aus-

tralia's captain, decided he wanted it all over before lunch, he had only to throw the ball to Craig McDermott.

In the latter part of this series, McDermott has been almost as many hospital wards as cricket grounds, yet the suspicion that his history of unfitness was about to overwhelm him once again has been triumphantly dispelled. Picking up the last three wickets inside two overs, courtesy of an inswinging yorker, an outwinger and, for Devon Malcolm, the obligatory straight one, he finished with six for 38 and 32 wickets

in the series. While Shane Warne's influence receded, if only temporarily, McDermott maintained a remarkably high standard.

Deservedly, he was named the International Cricketer of the Year and presented with two new cars, one of which he proceeded to drive around the outfield while Healy took the wheel of the other.

It was a cordial end to a series that both captains agreed had been played in a fine spirit. Over-rates were a persistent problem to England, who were fined 15 per cent of their match fee for the second successive game, but, given the tensions of Ashes contests, examples of offensive behaviour were admirably rare.

ASHES SERIES

England have lost six of their last nine series against Australia and all of their last four, each by large margins.

Series	P won	A won	D
1979-80	3	0	3
1981	6	3	2
1982-83	5	1	2
1985	6	3	1
1986-87	6	2	1
1988	6	0	4
1989-91	5	0	3
1990-91	6	1	4
1992	6	1	1
1994-95	6	1	1
Totals	47	11	22

Two one-off Tests in 1980 and 1987-88 were drawn.

Conviction prompts England to leave out Wise

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE international future of Dennis Wise, the Chelsea and England midfielder player, is in jeopardy as a result of yesterday's convictions for criminal damage and common assault for breaking a taxi window and attacking the driver.

After he had met Terry Venables, the England manager, it was announced that he would no longer be a member of the squad for next week's international with the Republic of Ireland.

Earlier, a London magistrate had warned Wise that he was facing "a serious risk" of jail when sentence is passed on March 13.

"Like Dennis, I am deeply shocked by what has happened and I am sorry he will not be joining us for the match," Venables said. "But we both agreed that in the interests of the England team, this is the right decision."

However, Chelsea said Wise would retain the club captaincy, beginning with the FA Cup replay against Millwall at Stamford Bridge tonight. The FA Premiership club pointed out that Wise had been removed as captain after the incident on October 8 and had been reinstated on January 28, because of his "excellent attitude" during the time he was not captain.

A statement, issued by Glenn Hoddle, the player-manager, and Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, said: "We do not condone what Dennis has been found guilty of doing, but we feel that it would be wrong for us to punish him again as this was not a football-related incident and any punishment will be decided by the courts."

Wise, who was outstanding in England's 1-0 win over Nigeria in November, was leaving Venables' club, Scitex West, with a girlfriend and two other friends, when the incident occurred.

The court verdict is another blow to the image of the national game, which has been so damaged in recent weeks. The Football Association has had to investigate allegations of sleaze as well as Eric Cantona's assault on a member of the crowd at Crystal Palace.

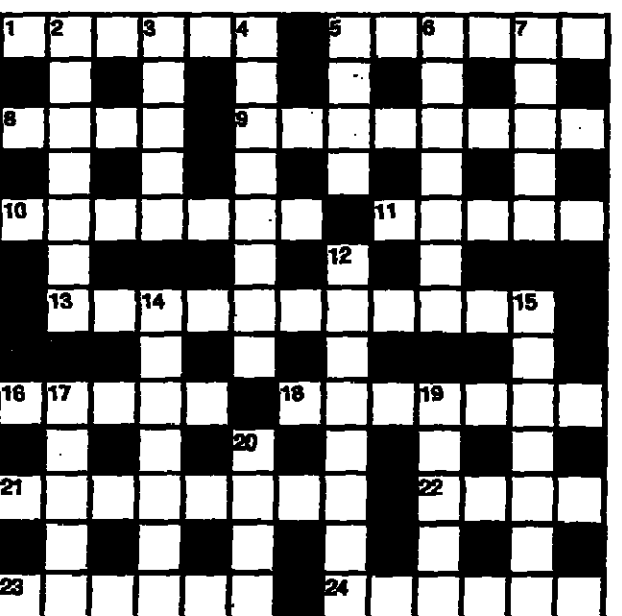
Court case, page 6
Super Cup decider, page 44

PERTH SCOREBOARD

Australia won loss
AUS: 114, 7-333 (Healy 5), 8-345 (Healy 11).
BOWLING: Malcolm 23-3-3-105-2; Fraser 21-3-74-2; Lewis 18-1-71-2; DeFreitas 22-10-54-1; Ramprakash 9-1-31-0.
ENGLAND: First Innings
"M A Taylor b Fraser 52 (185min, 122 balls, 8 fours)
"M J Slater c Atherton b Fraser 45 (44min, 31 balls, 4 fours)
"M E Waugh c Rhodes b DeFreitas 88 (220min, 177 balls, 10 fours)
"S R Waugh not out 89 (220min, 183 balls, 11 fours, 12 fives)
"G S Blewett c Rhodes b Fraser 20 (73min, 67 balls, 3 fours)
"H A Healy c Lewis b DeFreitas 12 (59min, 36 balls, 1 four)
"S K Warne c Rhodes b DeFreitas 1 (67min, 17 balls)
"J Angel run out (Malcolm/Rhodes) 11 (67min, 43 balls, 2 fours)
"G D McGrath run out (DeFreitas) 0 (18min, 10 balls)
"C McDermott run out (Lewis/Gooch) 6 (27min, 18 balls)
Extras (lb 14, lb 4, w 4, nb 9) 31
Total (335.5 overs, 590min) 402

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47 (Slater 35), 2-55 (Slater 38), 3-228 (M E Waugh 5), 4-247 (S R Waugh 5), 5-287 (S R Waugh 24), 6-320 (S R Waugh 45), 7-328 (S R Waugh 50), 8-386 (S R Waugh 89), 9-388 (S R Waugh 91).
BOWLING: Malcolm 23-3-3-105-2; Fraser 21-3-74-2; Lewis 18-1-71-2; DeFreitas 22-10-54-1; Ramprakash 9-1-31-0.
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Extras (lb 14, lb 4, w 4, nb 9) 31
Total (335.5 overs, 590min) 402

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5 (Gooch 0), 2-5 (Gooch 0), 3-77 (Thorpe 35), 4-77 (Thorpe 35), 5-208 (Ramprakash 53), 6-247 (Lewis 1), 7-253 (Fraser 7).
BOWLING: Angel 22-3-7-65-3; McGrath 25-6-28-2; Blewett 4-1-0-0; M E Waugh 9-2-29-2; Warne 23-4-58-2; McDermott 13-3-41-0.
Second Innings
"M A Atherton c Healy b McGrath 4 (17min, 12 balls)
"M J Slater c Healy b McGrath 4 (17min, 12 balls)
"M E Waugh c Healy b McGrath 8 (21min, 13 balls)
"S R Waugh c Healy b McGrath 8 (21min, 13 balls)
"G S Blewett c Healy b McGrath 0 (17min, 12 balls)
"H A Healy not out 0 (17min, 12 balls)
"S K Warne c Healy b McGrath 0 (17min, 12 balls)
"J Angel c Healy b McGrath 0 (17min, 12 balls)
"G D McGrath c Healy b McGrath 0 (17min, 12 balls)
"C McDermott c Healy b McGrath 0 (17min, 12 balls)
Extras (lb 1, lb 9, nb 7) 17
Total (96.3 overs, 402min) 295



TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 390

- ACROSS
- Outcome (6)
 - Amuse; tiny touch (6)
 - Noisy; tasteless (4)
 - Very quickly (2,2,4)
 - Vigilant, unsleeping (7)
 - Landed estate, has lord (5)
 - Be very expensive (4,1,6)
 - Silly act; eccentric building (5)
 - Inhabited (7)
 - Naturally (2,6)
 - Fluent and superficially convincing (4)
 - Attachment to start of word (6)
 - Upper house (6)
- DOWN
- Unimaginative (7)
 - Living fence; be evasive (5)
 - Court of inquiry (8)
 - Strong flavour; Chinese dynasty (4)
 - Retrench, prune (3,4)
 - Place, state in which one is ignored (5)
 - Without foundation (8)
 - Disposed of (to purchaser) (4,3)
 - Murder in the Cathedral poet (1,1,5)
 - Present for acceptance (5)
 - Heaven (5)
 - Decisive stage; knotty problem (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 389
ACROSS: 5 Ermine 7 Pimple 9 Didactic 11 Fast 12 Re-lay 13 Beret 15 Smutty 17 Virus 19 Turn 20 Full-time 22 Behave 23 Select
DOWN: 1 Tender 2 Felt 3 Apache 4 Welt 6 Middlemarch 8 Play for time 10 Crypt 14 Ravel 16 Toffee 18 Sleuth 19 Toby 21 Lash

By Raymond Keene
This position is from the game Schamayev - Ufimzev, Leningrad 1949. It is often dangerous to have only one piece defending a key point, as that piece may be lured away by the opponent. This is the crux of this position. Black to play.

Solution, page 45
Raymond Keene, page 6

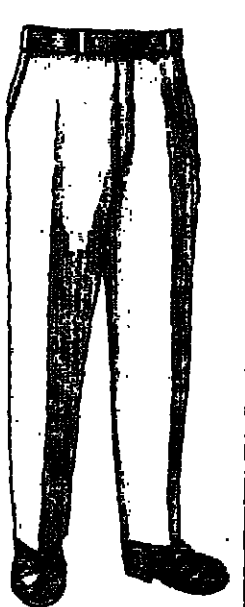
By Philip Howard
APOGAMY
a. Marrying out of the tribe
b. The lower spleen
c. Asexual reproduction
BILIAN
a. A hormone
b. Ironwood
c. An artificial element
DOLMUS
a. A shared taxi
b. The fieldmouse or corn shrew
c. A chickpea dip
GALAX
a. A gladiator's helmet
b. A shiny shrub
c. The front row of a phalanx
Answers, page 45

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